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PIRATES SEIZE DUTCH SHIP NEAR H.K. Six Passengers Kidnapped: More Than \$2m. Stolen

First Direct H.K.-Sydney Air Link

The first direct air link between Hong Kong and Sydney was made yesterday afternoon when a Cathay Pacific aircraft left Kai Tak airport on the first of what is to be a once-monthly flight service.

The aircraft, a D.C.3 type 21-seat plane, took off at 3 p.m. and is expected to be in Sydney tomorrow afternoon.

Stops will be made at Manila, Morotai, Darwin and Cebu.

Among the passengers on board was Mr. A. J. H. Moss, Director of Civil Air Services.

A Company spokesman said yesterday that it is hoped the number of flights between Hong Kong and Sydney will be increased.

The single fare of present from the Colony is \$220.

Previous to Monday's inaugural flight persons wishing to reach Sydney by air from Hong Kong had to first make the trip to Singapore and await further transport thence for Australia.

Central Trust Of China Here

The Central Trust of China, an affiliate of the Central Bank of China, re-opened for business in Hong Kong yesterday on the ground floor of Pedder Building.

The largest concern of its kind in China, the Central Trust undertakes all kinds of business, connected with banking, trust, remittance, insurance, transportation and general trading.

Members of Hong Kong's banking and commercial community called in an endless stream throughout the day to tender their good wishes to Mr. C. K. Chang (Chairman of the Board of Directors), Mr. R. C. Wu (Managing Director and General Manager) and Mr. T. H. Mai (Manager of the Hong Kong Office).

BRITISH TOBACCO CHIEF DEAD

London, Dec. 15. Sir Hugo Cunliffe-Owen, Chairman of the British American Tobacco Company for 21 years, died yesterday at his home at Sunningdale Park outside London following a heart attack. He was 77.—United Press.

2 SHIPS AFIRE, ONE SINKING IN W. INDIES

New York, Dec. 15. Two ships were today reported afire in the Dutch West Indies after a collision, and an ocean-going salvage tug, owned by a New York firm, was reported sinking in the British West Indies in SOS messages received by the Coast Guard.

Two unidentified oil tankers were reported to be burning after colliding off Curaçao Bay, Curacao, Dutch West Indies.

A British vessel, the motorship San Eliseo, which was standing by and attempting to get her small boats to aid the burning ships.

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Arsenal Of Ship Looted Eyewitness's Vivid Story

South China's internationally-known Bias Bay pirates made their first post-war "kill" on Sunday afternoon when they seized control of the 4,500-ton Dutch liner, "Van Heutsz" enroute from Hong Kong to Swatow.

Six first-class passengers were kidnapped and more than two million dollars in money and personal belongings taken away from 2,300 cabin and steerage passengers at the point of revolvers and light machine-guns.

The pirates, about 25 in number, are believed to have boarded the "Van Heutsz" in Hong Kong harbour. They seized control of the vessel four hours after it had sailed. They were in control of the ship for more than 15 hours and ransacked the ship's arsenal.

They later commandeered two junks and forced the captain and other officers and crew to accompany them to shore in life boats.

The piracy occurred west of Chikang Point, some 80 miles from Hong Kong in the vicinity of the infamous Bias Bay pirates' pre-war lair.

The "Van Heutsz" originally carried 16 anti-piracy guards but these were dispensed with on this voyage.

"The pirates must have known," said the Captain ruefully yesterday.

Eyewitness

Third Officer M. A. Nederkorn, told the "China Mail" that at about 4.00 p.m. on Sunday, when near Bias Bay, he was on the bridge talking to the 4th Officer about pirates in pre-war days when the Bay was the pirates' haunt.

Before he had finished talking two men came up the bridge, held them up at pistol point and ordered them into the corridor where the officers' cabins were.

Five minutes later about 11 men came on to the bridge.

The Chief Engineer (Mr. J. V. K. Klavein), unaware of what was going on, came out of his cabin and was also held up and ordered into the corridor.

"We were told to keep our hands up. We were marched to the 4th Officer's cabin and ordered to sit down," said Mr. Nederkorn.

"The Chief Officer and the 2nd Officer were already there. A guard was posted outside the cabin."

"Two boys, who was also unaware of what was happening brought us our usual tea."

When they entered the cabin they almost threw everything down.

They were ordered to put the tea down and were imprisoned in the same cabin.

"The pirates asked for the ship's firearms. The Captain had no alternative but to obey."

They took the whole lot, comprising Tommy guns, rifles and pistols.

"The 6th Engineer then ap-

peared and was also detained in the cabin.

"One of the robbers started to take off my rings, when another presumably the leader came in and ordered the rings to be returned to me."

"I was then ordered to open the safe in the Captain's cabin. I pointed to my rank. This they evidently understood and did not insist."

"They then started to ransack cabins of the Captain, Chief Engineer and 4th Officer."

"Later the pirates ordered the Chief Officer to the bridge."

Called Out

"The Captain, incidentally, was locked up in his own cabin."

"He was called out and asked to produce more ammunition."

"Under orders from the Cap-

Exiled Siamese Government Talks In H.K.?

Bangkok, Dec. 15. According to unconfirmed reports, Luang Arthakul, former Foreign Minister under the Phibun Sangram Cabinet, has successfully fled to Hong Kong where he is engaged in discussions with other Siamese diplomats for the formation of an exile Siamese Government.

Among the diplomats taking part in the negotiations in Hong Kong is Sangkarn Tularak, Siamese Ambassador to China, the reports added.—Central News.

"I unlocked the ammunition locker, key to which was kept by him."

"At about 8.00 p.m. the pirates ordered two boys to bring us sandwiches and coffee."

"At about midnight I was ordered out of the cabin to drop anchor."

"All the time I was guarded by two pirates."

"After the anchor was dropped I was escorted back to the cabin."

"At about 3.30 a.m. I was again ordered out to raise anchor."

"The ship was then driven further to the coast. A motor life-boat was lowered by the pirates as an emergency measure."

"At about 5.30 a.m. I was called out to get ready to drop anchor. Before this, the pirates had been trying to get off the ship by calling to junks by means of the ship's megaphones."

"Unable to attract the junks the pirates ordered the quarter-master swing to port."

"A little later the pirate ordered the quarter-master to swing the ship back to starboard."

Junks Appear

"I was ordered back to the cabin. While in the cabin, I could hear junks coming alongside."

"While all this was going on some of the men attempted to open the safe of the Chief Officer."

"They repeatedly asked for the key. The key however, had been taken away by the first batch of pirates."

"They started to hack at the safe. They broke the lock and the handle."

"At this stage, another pirate came in with the key. But without the handle, it was impossible to open the safe. After several attempts to break it open, they abandoned the safe."

"The only indication we had that the pirates had left was when the Chief Engineer opened our door and we were informed that the Captain, Chief Officer and some members of the crew had gone in a row boat with the pirates."

"Shortly afterwards the Captain and the crew who went with him returned in the row boat. No sign of the motor boat was seen."

"From the Captain the pirates took HK\$2,350 and miscellaneous articles. The Chief Officer lost a pair of binoculars. The 2nd Officer also lost a pair of binoculars and a watch. The 3rd and 4th Officer were not robbed."

"The Chief Engineer lost a revolver and an empty suitcase. From the 6th Engineer the pirates took a gramophone and some records."

"I reckon that the total loot of money, jewellery and personal property would be in the vicinity of nearly 2 million dollars."

"I recognised one of the pirates as a Singapore passenger."

Captain's Story

Captain Klass Albertus Vliek, master of the "Van Heutsz" said.

"The ship carried 70 cabin and 1,800 deck passengers."

"At about 4 p.m. on Sunday, the boat was at Bias Bay."

"When I looked out of the window I saw the 4th Officer with his hands up."

"I went out and saw five or six men on the bridge. As each white man approached, he was stopped and ordered to a cabin."

(Continued on Page 4)

"Six-Months" Blanket Import Licences

In order to minimise the number of import licences which firms have hitherto been required to take out, the Imports and Exports Department are prepared to issue, in future, blanket licences covering a firm's requirements for six months in those cases where the firm is providing its own foreign exchange.

It is felt that this procedure will meet the convenience of importing firms and will eliminate a large amount of clerical work necessitated by separate licences for each consignment.

Where such blanket licences are issued, an importer will not be able to surrender his copy to the ship owner on taking delivery nor attach the duplicate to his import declaration, since the licence will be required for additional shipments.

The holder of a blanket licence should therefore ask the shipping company to endorse on his licence, each shipment in respect of a delivery order being issued, and note the licence number on the import declaration when the declaration is filed with the Imports and Exports Department.

Blanket licences will not be issued where official exchange is required nor in respect of those commodities which are under world allocation.

The above procedure will take effect immediately.

Kowloon Wharf Repairs



Repairs and replacements are being made to the Public Pier, adjoining the Star Ferry Wharf at Kowloon. Yesterday divers were sent down to make a thorough inspection of the underwater portion of the structure. Here is shown one of the divers preparing for the descent.—China Mail Photo.

PALESTINE CLASHES: Frontier Legion Truck Bombed

Jerusalem, Dec. 15. A bomb was thrown into a Trans-Jordan Frontier Forces truck entering Jerusalem near Wallah Hospital today, injuring at least two aboard.

Two Frontier Forces trucks were passing the Jewish quarter when shots were fired at them.

The hand grenades were thrown into the second trucks, injuring two soldiers.

Earlier, Arab soldiers of King Abdullah's force Trans-Jordan Army, in Palestine for police duty, were reported officially to have killed 15 Jews and wounded 15 others when they machine-gunned a bus convoy near Tel Aviv on Saturday night.

Meanwhile, Jewish leaders in Jerusalem have called upon the Palestine Government to order the immediate evacuation from Palestine of all Trans-Jordan Arab Legion troops.

The Arab Legion forces, which are offered by Britons, are on loan to the Palestine Government for police duty in the Holy Land.

A spokesman for Hagana declared that "failure of the British to evacuate these foreign troops will be considered a British provocation against the Jewish defense forces." — Associated Press.

CANTON SILENT ABOUT KOWLOON EVICTIONS

Canton, Dec. 15. There was no official reaction here on the Kowloon walled city eviction issue in Hong Kong.

The Kwangtung Assembly closed its 10-day session without expressing any formal opinion on the matter.

The Government and Kuomintang authorities did not make an official statement, preferring to let the Central authorities deal with the matter.

Editorial opinion was in sympathy with the Chinese residents in the walled city.

The "Chungshan Jih-Pao", official Kuomintang paper, said: "This is the fourth attempt to evict the Chinese."

A deputation of Kowloon residents were here recently to seek official support in their contention that the city is Chinese territory and that the British authorities in Hong Kong have no right to evict them.—Associated Press.

Kwok Here Today

Shanghai, Dec. 15. Mr. T. W. Kwok, the Special Commissioner of the Foreign Ministry for Kwangtung and Kwangsi, arrived in Shanghai from Nanking yesterday after repelling to the Central authori-

"Big 3" Hold Crucial Crisis Talks

London, Dec. 15. The Western delegations held crucial meetings in advance of today's session of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

The British Foreign Secretary (Mr. Bevin) also consulted with Prime Minister Attlee about the Big Four crisis after a meeting of the British Cabinet.

The United States Secretary of State (Mr. Marshall), conferred with his delegation and top advisers.

It is assumed that Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov had some long talks with the Kremlin over the week-end to determine Soviet policy.

Meanwhile, the United States, Britain and France waited anxiously to hear whether M. Molotov is going to let the Council of Foreign Ministers meeting break up.

M. Marshall, who probably will accept responsibility for calling the session a failure if Russia refuses to change her position, is understood to be hoping for the best but preparing for the worst.

Denial

A few hours before today's crucial meeting at 3.30 p.m., he formally and categorically denied M. Molotov's charges that the Americans were reaping millions in profits out of Germany.

He stated that "not one penny" of profit has accrued to the United States from its administration of Germany.

Delegates of all the Western Powers agreed that today's session will determine whether this session will collapse quickly or go on in further efforts to reach accommodation between the East and West on Germany.

The possibility of a quick collapse was sufficient to have worried officials of the American delegation worried about how necessary to get American personnel back home before Christmas.

Mr. Marshall's final decision will be made after he finds out whether M. Molotov has changed his mind after the two-day "cooling off" week-end.

He was reliably reported to feel that, if M. Molotov will not change his demand for \$10,000,000 reparations, the Americans have nothing more to talk about.—United Press.

Strike Pickets Stop Bus

There was no development in the bus strike on the Island, which entered its fifth day, yesterday.

No further attempt was made to bring icicles over from Kowloon.

The interview which the Chairman of the Motor Drivers Association and representatives of the strikers had with the Commissioner of Labour yesterday morning was not in connection with the strike but with a complaint the Commissioner had received of intimidation on the part of the strikers.

It appears that on Sunday a bus, which was being taken for overhaul, was stopped by strike pickets on the road, and ordered to be driven back to the shed.

SHANGHAI PILOTS STRIKE ENDED

Shanghai, Dec. 15. The Shanghai pilots' strike, which began 18 days over a dispute with the Maritime Customs on revised pilotage tariffs, ended this afternoon when all striking pilots were given new contracts by the Bureau of Shipping and Navigation of the Ministry of Communications.

In future, pilots will be under the control of the Bureau instead of the Customs as originally.

The new contracts are for five years and include an option of renewal for another similar term. They also include provisions for a revision of pilotage tariffs—the case of the recent dispute—from time to time.

The strike, just ended, involved 22 pilots, most of them British.—Reuter.

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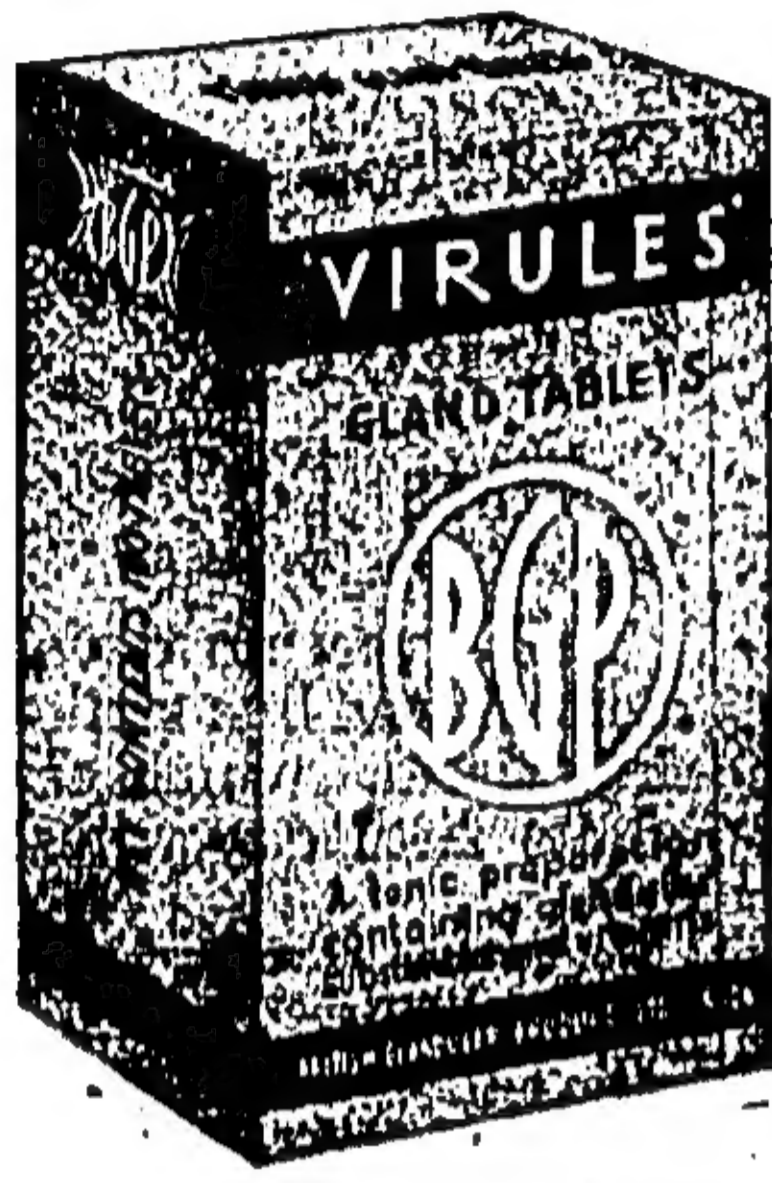
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Christmas & New Year Festivities

REPULSE BAY HOTEL

XMAS EVE—December 24th
SPECIAL DINNER DANCE
11 2 a.m.

XMAS DAY—December 25th
TEA DANCE
4.00—6.00 p.m.

BOXING DAY—
December 26th
TEA DANCE
4.00—6.00 p.m.

NEW YEAR'S EVE—
December 31st
SPECIAL DINNER DANCE
11 2 a.m.

NEW YEAR'S DAY
January 1st 1948
TEA DANCE
4.00—6.00 p.m.



HONGKONG HOTEL

XMAS EVE—December 24th
GALA DINNER DANCE
11 2 a.m.

BOXING DAY—
December 26th
SPECIAL DINNER DANCE
11 1 a.m.

NEW YEAR'S EVE—
December 31st
GALA DINNER DANCE
11 2 a.m.

NEW PENSIONS RULE FOR POLICE OFFICERS

An Ordinance to provide for pensions or gratuities to Police Officers who have elected to retire in circumstances which would not otherwise entitle them to pension or gratuity, is to have its first reading in Legislative Council tomorrow.

Macao Hierarchy Objects To "Sumptuous"

Macao, Dec. 15.—The adjective "sumptuous" was thought offensive to the head of the Catholic hierarchy in Macao when used in reference to his palace on top of the Penha Hill by the "Noticias de Macao" in today's illustrated issue.

The paper was withdrawn from circulation until the supposedly improper word has been "amended" with Chinese ink.

The Macao Bishop apparently took umbrage at an allusion by the same paper to a luxurious Chrysler sedan he recently bought for his own use. Hence the Censors' action. It is understood. — Our Own Correspondent.

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

E. D. Sassoon Banking Co., Ltd.	\$ 25,000.00
Sir Victor Sassoon, Bart., G.B.E.	25,000.00
The China & South Sea Bank Ltd.	500.00
The Local Print- ing Press, Ltd.	250.00
Mr. & Mrs. A. J. W. Evans	250.00
Hong Kong Match Factory	100.00
Chiu Tak Leong & Co.	100.00
Messrs. Danby & Tung	100.00
The Students' Govern- ment Vernacular School	100.00
Wanchai	100.00
"Harry"	60.00
"D.M.B.'s specula- tion"	20.00
Total	\$3,400,481.16

THREE INNISKILLINGS NEEDED SOME RUM

Because they were the first men of the Regiment to appear in a civil court, Mr. J. G. Conklin bound over three Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers at Central Magistracy yesterday on a charge of larceny of a bottle of rum (valued at \$12) from the Jackson Cafe in Johnson Road.

Defendants, J. P. Brennan, F. R. Nolan and A. Ferguson, pleaded not guilty, saying that the foki had taken their money and then tried to take the rum and the money.

Evidence by the foki and the manager alleged that the defendants had asked to see the rum.

In 1941 the re-organization of the Police with a view to reducing the European establishment of non-gazetted police officers was under consideration.

Since the liberation this policy has been applied.

The normal method of dealing with persons displaced by a reduction of establishment would be by compulsory retirement on abolition of office, but the officers in many cases are not being abolished and in such cases there is no power to award a pension or gratuity.

In view of the circumstances of the internment of most of the officers concerned and the fact that they could reasonably expect to resume their employment, compulsory retirement without a pension or gratuity would be inequitable.

The Terms

All non-gazetted European officers of the Police Force were therefore asked to elect before July 15 this year, whether they would retire irrespective of whether they had reached the age of 45 or completed fifteen years of service, provided that a pension or gratuity, as the case may be, be paid on the basis set out in Clause 3 of the Bill.

Such are the terms which have been applied on retirement on abolition of office.

The response enables the commencement of the reduction of the European non-gazetted officers of the Police Force and Clause 2 to the Bill enables the payment of pensions and gratuities to those officers of the Police Force who, before July 15, gave notice of their willingness to retire on the terms above mentioned.

The object of this Bill is to enable the payment of pension or gratuity to officers who have elected to retire.

PARCELS FOR BRITAIN

Donations to the Food Parcels Fund—Mrs. J. Stericker \$10, Mr. A.V. Gosan \$10, Anon \$10, Anon \$25, Sullivan Anne Fox \$5, Mary \$1, Mrs. W.E. Simpson \$5, Mrs. Cox Walker \$10, Lt. Col. H.G. Guirn \$10, Capt. L.H. Paere \$5, Capt. H.O. de Caria \$10, E. Walker \$5, Mary McLeod \$10, May Mackay \$10, Lt. Col. Rodgers \$10, Lt. L. Brook \$10, J.M. Dalziel \$10. Total \$22,307.75.

THROWING BRICKS

Brennan denied the evidence, saying that they ran because about six Chinese were throwing bricks at them. They were not trying to steal the rum.

The other two defendants said their stories were the same as Brennan's and did not give evidence.

Mr. Conklin said that as they were the first of the battalion to appear in Court he would take a lenient view and bind them over for twelve months.

First defendant was bound over in a bond of \$250 and the other two in a bond of \$50.

Lieut. W. Symes said that he had been instructed by his Commanding Officer to say they had never been in a civil or military court before and they were all of good character.

They then hit the foki and ran down the back stairway.

However, they ran into a policeman.

FOOD AND FUEL

Food and Fuel Costs for the week ending Dec. 13:—Rice and Flour 7 1/2 cwt. \$4,500.00, Vegetables 1 1/2 cwt. \$900.00, Salt Cabbages 2 cwt. \$300.00, Oil 7 cwt. \$1,600.00, Tea 2 cwt. \$800.00, Salt Fish 3 cwt. \$700.00, Fish 4 cwt. \$800.00, Pork 3 cwt. \$750.00, Firewood 10 1/2 cwt. \$3,000.00, Bean Curd 14 pieces \$700.00. Total \$12,350.00.

THE WHISKERS CLUB



The Whiskers Club will have a Christmas Party at the Club on Monday, December 22nd, at 8 p.m. A special dinner will be served and a raffle will be held. Tickets are \$5.00 per person. Reservations should be made by December 18th.

For Xmas MME. KOVACH MOVES TO EVICT TENANT



Christmas Day is rapidly drawing nearer and daily Hong Kong streets become more decked for the festive season.

Here is a sight to delight the heart of any child, waiting for Santa Claus to pen down the chimney.

This is just one of the many shop windows that have been decorated in the spirit of the time.

Our rambling photographer found scores more but this was one of the best.—China Mail Photo.

Personalia

Mr. E.W. Barltrop, C.B.E., D.S.O., Labour Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, is due to arrive in Hong Kong on Dec. 12.

Mr. Barltrop, who was formerly a Regional Commissioner under the Ministry of Labour and National Services before taking up his present appointment with the Colonial Office, has just attended the I.L.O. Conference in New Delhi.

He is taking the opportunity to visit British Colonies in the Far East before returning to London.

Young Man Appears On Charge Of Carnal Knowledge

The trial of Lai Cheong, who is on a charge of having carnal knowledge of a young Chinese girl without her consent on Sept. 22, 1947, was commenced before Mr. Justice T. J. Gould (Puisne Judge), at the Criminal Sessions yesterday.

Mr. A.J. Clifford, assisted by Det. Insp. Downman, conducted the case for the prosecution.

Mr. B.A. Bernacht, instructed by Mr. M.A. da Silva, appeared for the accused.

Mr. Clifford said that the complainant was engaged by the accused in Aug. last, as a baby amah at a salary of \$6 per month, plus food.

It was her duty to look after the accused's baby, but much more was demanded of her.

She had to wait up until he came home at night, which was often after midnight, and then to prepare hot water for his bath.

She had also to wash his back.

On the night of the alleged offence, the accused, as was his custom, came home after midnight.

The other occupants of the house were in bed and probably asleep.

On accused's return, the complainant heated up the water and took it into the bathroom.

Accused also entered the bathroom. He was wearing only a pair of shorts.

He is alleged to have seized hold of the complainant and to have committed the offence with which he is charged.

A report of the incident was subsequently made by complainant to her cousin and a number of discussions took place between the latter and accused.

Compensation in the sum of \$2,500 was requested and accused, who at first made a counter-offer of \$100, eventually agreed to pay \$400.

Further discussions between the parties took place and accused paid a sum of \$100, giving two promissory notes for \$200 each.

As no satisfactory arrangement was finally reached, the young girl was sent back to her mother, who made a report to the Police on Oct. 6.

The girl was sent for a medical examination.

When arrested, accused said, in a statement to the Police: "I was drunk and made a mistake."

Hearing will be resumed at 10 a.m. today.

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Constable Nabbed Hit-Run Driver

The driver of a small black car who failed to report an accident after he had knocked down, and seriously injured, a 7-year-old Chinese girl at Fuk Wing Street on Saturday, was brought to book through the good work of Police Constable 1290.

When Loong Yue-ming, 23, of 188 Hai Tan Street, appeared before Mr. W.A. Blair-Kerr at Kowloon Court yesterday on the charges of driving without a licence, without the consent of the owner and with failing to stop when signalled to do so by a uniformed Police officer, S/I Howarth stated that the car (1879) belonged to defendant's father.

On Dec. 13, said S/I Howarth, all constables were warned to keep a sharp lookout for a small black car which might have dents or scratches on it.

The car was involved in an accident in which a 7-year-old girl was knocked down. It did not stop.

The accident occurred at Fuk Wing Street at 8 a.m.

Four hours later, PC 1290 saw a small black car at the junction of Waterloo Road and Prince Edward Road, coming in his direction.

He signalled to the driver to stop, but his signal was ignored. The constable gave chase and overtook the car.

When asked for his licence the accused (who was accompanied by a fully licensed driver) produced a learner-driver's licence which expired on Nov. 16.

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He signalled to the driver to stop, but his signal was ignored. The constable gave chase and overtook the car.

An application by Mrs. Munslow (Mme. Kovach) of Salon de Mode, Alexandra Building, for the eviction of Mr. Fred Ellis of Peninsula Hotel, from 7 Bowen Road, ground floor, was granted yesterday by a Tenancy Tribunal, comprising Mr. Kwok Chan (Chairman) and Mrs. V. M. Churcher and Mr. Lo Man-hin (Members).

Notice of appeal was given by Mr. J.T. Prior, of Messrs. Wilkinson & Prior, who appeared for the applicant, Mr. Fred Ellis.

The applicant, Mrs. Munslow, was represented by Mr. J.M. d'Almeida Remedios.

Mrs. Munslow claimed that she was granted a monthly tenancy of the premises before the occupation.

Soon after the re-occupation, she again took possession.

In Nov. 1945, she sub-let the top floor to a Mr. Morax.

On Feb. 11, 1946, the China Underwriters, as mortgagees in possession, by a letter addressed to Mr. Munslow, confirmed her monthly tenancy and the sub-letting by her to Mr. Morax.

Mrs. Munslow left for England for a short visit in April, 1946, having sub-let the ground floor on Feb. 22, 1946, to a Mr. Taus, for six months. The sub-letting was made with the consent of the China Underwriters.

At the end of September, or beginning of October, China Underwriters went out of possession.

On expiration of the sub-lease of the ground floor at the end of September, 1946, Miss Kovach, the daughter and representative of Mrs. Munslow, went to re-take possession.

She then found Mr. Ellis had entered into possession, without the knowledge and consent of Mrs. Munslow.

Mr. Ellis contended that at the end of September, 1946, the ground floor of 7 Bowen Road was vacated by Mr. Taus, who surrendered the keys to him.

As neither Mrs. Munslow or any person appeared to resume or continue occupancy of the premises, he treated them as having been surrendered to him and entered into occupation himself.

Mr. Ellis said that the premises were required by him, as he is the owner, for his own personal use and occupation.

Reminders

Today
Paintings Exhibition, by T.F. Lau, St. Francis Hotel, Queen's Road, C.

Oil & Water paintings & wood cuts exhibition by Teh Wei, Hain Po Fong Ching and Shuang Tai-chun, St. John's Cathedral Hall.

Prize Giving, Kowloon Junior School, Kowloon, 5.30 p.m.

Reception commemorating 70th anniversary of China Merchants Steam Navigation Company, Jacobson Hotel, 8 p.m.

Lecture on UNO by Mr. G.B. Endicott, sponsored by International Affairs Committee of H.K. Council of Women, YMCA, Duddell St., 4.30 p.m.

Rotary Club, closed meeting at H.K. Hotel, 12.30 p.m.

Debate on "That there should be a limit to Free Speech", European YMCA, 8.15 p.m.

Talk on "The Meaning of Christmas and How to Celebrate it", produced by Miss Alice Lan, YWCA, Duddell St., 4.30 p.m.

Coming Events
TOMORROW
China Light & Power Co. Ltd., General Meeting of Shareholders, St. George's Bldg., 12 noon.

Legislative Council Meeting, 2.30 p.m.

DECEMBER 18
St. Stephen's College Old Boys Association Annual Meeting, Roof Garden, H.K. Hotel, 7 p.m.

Annual Dance, St. Stephen's College Old Boys Association, Roof Garden, H.K. Hotel, 8 p.m.

RESERVATIONS AT RESPECTIVE HOTELS
THE HONGKONG & SHANGHAI HOTELS, LTD.

ALLEN ADMITS RECEIVING GIFT OF FANS

Under cross-examination yesterday, William Elijah Allen admitted that he was aware of a Government Order forbidding the acceptance of presents by Government servants and that, in accepting some fans, he did not pay attention to this order. He had no reason to believe that the fans were a bribe, he added.

Allen, together with Man Kam-fat and Chui Hong, are facing charges of alleged conspiracy to obtain bribes, accepting bribes and agreeing to accept bribes.

The case is being heard before Mr. Justice F. H. Williams (Chief Justice), with Mr. A. Lonsdale, assisted by Mr. F. W. Shafrin and Det. Insp. J. Johnston conducting the prosecution.

Mr. Percy Chen, instructed by Mr. S. Ng Quinn of Messrs. Brutton & Co., is appearing for Allen. Man Kam-fat is defended by the Hon. Mr. Leo d'Almada e Castro, K.C., instructed by Mr. P. J. Griffiths of Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist. Chui Hong is represented by Mr. Hin-shing Lo, instructed by Mr. C. A. S. Russ.

When hearing resumed yesterday morning, Allen was cross-examined by Mr. Lonsdale regarding entries in notebooks and registers.

Allen admitted that he was aware of a Government order which forbade Government servants to accept presents.

He did not know why Keung Hing-pun, Wong Kwai and Pun Hui should tell truths about him. He had no knowledge of monies collected by Man Kam-fat on the 11th Feb. 1947 and thereafter by Chui Hong.

He denied that stallholders contravened market bye-laws with his permission.

He could not remember if he had to warn anyone in the Mongkok Market regarding obstructions.

He only made entries in his registers in cases of gross obstruction or in cases where stallholders would not take any notice of warnings.

Chief Concern

He was concerned chiefly in the clearing away of unlicensed hawkers; his sympathies were with the stallholders.

He had no reason to believe that the electric fans were given to him as a bribe.

In accepting the fans, he did not pay any attention to the Government order against the acceptance of presents.

He could not understand how the receipt was found in his desk and could see no reason why Det. Insp. Johnston or any other Police Officer should "plant" it in his desk.

He did not even know that the table fan was provided by Yuen Ming.

Allen admitted having received fish from stallholders through Lee Fu. He never en-

Flabbergasted

He was flabbergasted when the Police walked in. He was in a bit of a daze, he did not know what was going on.

Mr. Shafrin said: "Have you any money on your person?"

There was a possibility that he might have been mistaken.

He was too dumfounded to think of giving an explanation to Mr. Shafrin about Lee Fu having come in with the money.

Cpl. J. Murphy, R.A.F., said that he was in Allen's house at the time of the latter's arrest.

Going to the pantry for a drink, he saw Allen at the telephone. After obtaining a drink, he met Allen at the foot of the stairs. Allen seemed to be very agitated.

The telephone was out of order and he, Allen, was trying to get the Chief Inspector.

"Something Fishy"

Allen mentioned that there was "something fishy" and said that he would have to go to the Slaughter House.

Murphy said that he returned to the sitting room with Allen and they sat down. There was a knock at the door and a second or two later, Mr. Shafrin entered.

Evidence as to Allen's character was given by Mr. J. G. Hooper, Acting Superintendent Sanitary Services, Medical Department, Mr. E. M. Robbins and Mr. C. T. Champelovier.

After Mr. d'Almada had opened the case for Man Kam-fat, Li Chi-kong, managing partner of the Wing Wo Leather Factory, Li Shiu-kai, managing partner of the Wah Kee Leather Factory and Chan Wing-kai, of the Wing On Shing Slipway, gave evidence as to Man Kam-fat's character.

In his examination-in-chief, Man Kam-fat denied that he asked Pun Ping for \$150 on behalf of Allen. He denied receiving money from Pun Ping.

Man said that, about a week after Pun Ping had obtained the release of two pig carcasses, the latter expressed a wish to give a present to Allen. He advised Pun Ping against it.

A week later, Pun Ping again said that he wished to give a present to Allen. He again told Pun Ping not to do so.

Man denied having mentioned the name of any tailor to Pun Ping.

Dealing with the meeting at the Yat Cheong Cafe, Man denied that Keung Hing-pun and the others were told that they would be required to pay Allen \$40 each daily.

Hearing will be resumed at 10 a.m. today.

He Gave His Own Twist To "Numbers" Racket

Ma Kwan (24) put on a variation of the "Number Painting" racket by claiming that he was sent by the Hong Kong Government to collect \$1 from each of the houses with newly-painted numbers.

He went to Wan Kin at 55 Cooke Street at 3.30 p.m. on Saturday and obtained \$1.

He also collected \$1 from Chan Ming at 75 Cooke Street. In both cases, a receipt, bearing the name of the "Hong Kong Painting Number Co.", was issued by him.

On receipt of a report from Wan Ma was taken into custody. At the Hung Hom Police Station it was found that a total of six receipts had been made out by Ma and that he had collected \$3. Some of his prospects did not pay.

The above was related to Mr. W. A. Blair-Kerr by Sub-Inspector J. S. Howarth at Kowloon Court yesterday, when Ma was charged on two counts of obtaining money by false pretences.

The Magistrate passed sentence of three months' hard labour on each charge, to be served concurrently.

Constable Disliked His Thumb Being Twisted

Wan Pak-yu, alias Wan Hung-lau, 28-year-old licensed driver, was so infuriated by Police Constable Yee Kung taking down the particulars of his licence that he told the constable: "You think you police are big shots" (or its equivalent in Chinese).

The constable objected to this insult and a quarrel ensued, in the course of which Wan got hold of the constable's thumb and twisted it.

Wan then got off his cab and swung three blows at the Police officer. Two of these were warranted off but the third knocked the constable's hat off.

Police Corporal 210 saw the fight and yelled at Wan to stop. Wan took no notice but continued to swing blows at the constable. He was later arrested.

When charged at Kowloon Court yesterday with assaulting a Police officer, Sub-Inspector J. S. Howarth told Mr. W. A. Blair-Kerr that the incident took place at Mission Road near

Argyle Street, at 5.15 p.m. on Dec. 14.

Engine Stalled

The whole thing started through PC 732 (Yee Kung) seeing lorry 6765 going up Mission Road, near Argyle Street.

When it was half way up the engine stalled, and the driver had some difficulty in re-starting it.

Thinking that it might be driven by a learner-driver, the constable went up and asked accused to produce his licence.

He was just taking down the particulars in the learner-driver's licence when defendant made some insulting remarks.

Defendant was sentenced to three months' hard labour with the option of a fine.

Cheung, who worked with Lam in the Construction Department, Naval Dockyard, said that he did not see the block until after the deal was closed.

Two Brothers Killed, One Hurt In Lorry Crash

Two brothers were crushed to death and a third brother injured when their hay-loaded lorry overturned near the "Wai Kee" Dairy Farm, coming down Customs Pass at 1 p.m. yesterday.

The deceased, Kong Man-chi (36) and Kong Man-yau (33), were killed and the third brother, Kong Man-tang (25), the driver, suffered slight injuries to the back and left foot.

The brothers, of whom the eldest was a hay dealer, went to Han Hau beyond Sai Koon Road to purchase hay to feed cattle.

As the lorry was coming down Customs Pass, rounding a sharp bend, Kong applied the brakes.

But the vehicle did not stop. Instead it swayed from side to side and overturned.

"FORGOT TO LOOK AT HIS DIARY"

Chung Hon-ki of Messrs. Jones & Co., was fined \$30 by Mr. Justice T. J. Gould (Pulano, Judge), for being absent when his name was called in the Second Court yesterday.

When Chung appeared before Mr. Justice Gould he said that he had attended Court on Monday and Thursday last, but was told to return again yesterday.

He made a note of this in his diary, but had forgotten to look at this diary yesterday morning. He only recollected that he was required to attend Court when the Bailiff contacted him.

TEEN-AGER "A BULLY AND EXTORTIONIST"

"You're a bully, as well as an extortionist," Mr. F. X. d'Almada told Chan On, alias Chan Tuen, alias Shu Yung, when sentencing the 18-year-old unemployed to 10 months' hard labour on five counts and to banishment at Central Magistracy yesterday.

Chan On, who claimed to be a trader who had failed in business, was charged on two counts of demanding money with menaces, two of using threats to induce a person to become a member of an unlawful society, two of procuring subscriptions for the purpose of an unlawful society and one of being a member of an unlawful society.

"All the charges against you have been proved to my satisfaction," the Magistrate remarked when convicting defendant.

Shoeshine Racket

Sgt. Major Chan Sul Ping, in evidence, said that investigations revealed that the "Wo Yung Yee" Society was a society of "lan tsai" who bully shoeshine boys into becoming members and assault them when they refuse to join.

The main centres of operation were the Central and Western districts.

One of the victims, a 14-year-old shoeshine, said that he was approached by defendant to become his "fok" (friend).

He (witness) was to give him 50 cents a day and be given a pitch. Witness was taken to the Praya where he was struck on the face when he refused to comply with defendant's request.

Witness was then brought to the roof of No. 80, Connaught Road, Central, where there were over 10 boys.

There witness was again struck by Chan On, whereupon he, witness, promised to pay defendant 50 cents the following day.

Witness did not keep to his promise and when defendant saw him again 10 days later, Chan On brought him to No. 80 Connaught Road, where together with two other men he struck the boy and threatened to kill him.

Witness agreed to become defendant's "fok" and paid the latter for 20 days, to another man, So Fah, as instructed by defendant.

Witness said that he found out from the other "fok" that Chan On was a member of the "Wo Yung Yee" society a week after meeting him.

Protection

Another 14-year-old shoeshine boy in evidence said that he paid defendant 50 cents for 15 days as "protection money" against assault and for an allocated pitch.

Lai Man-yap, of the C.I.D., G.H.Q., said that he went to the roof of No. 80 Connaught Road with second witness and found defendant sleeping.

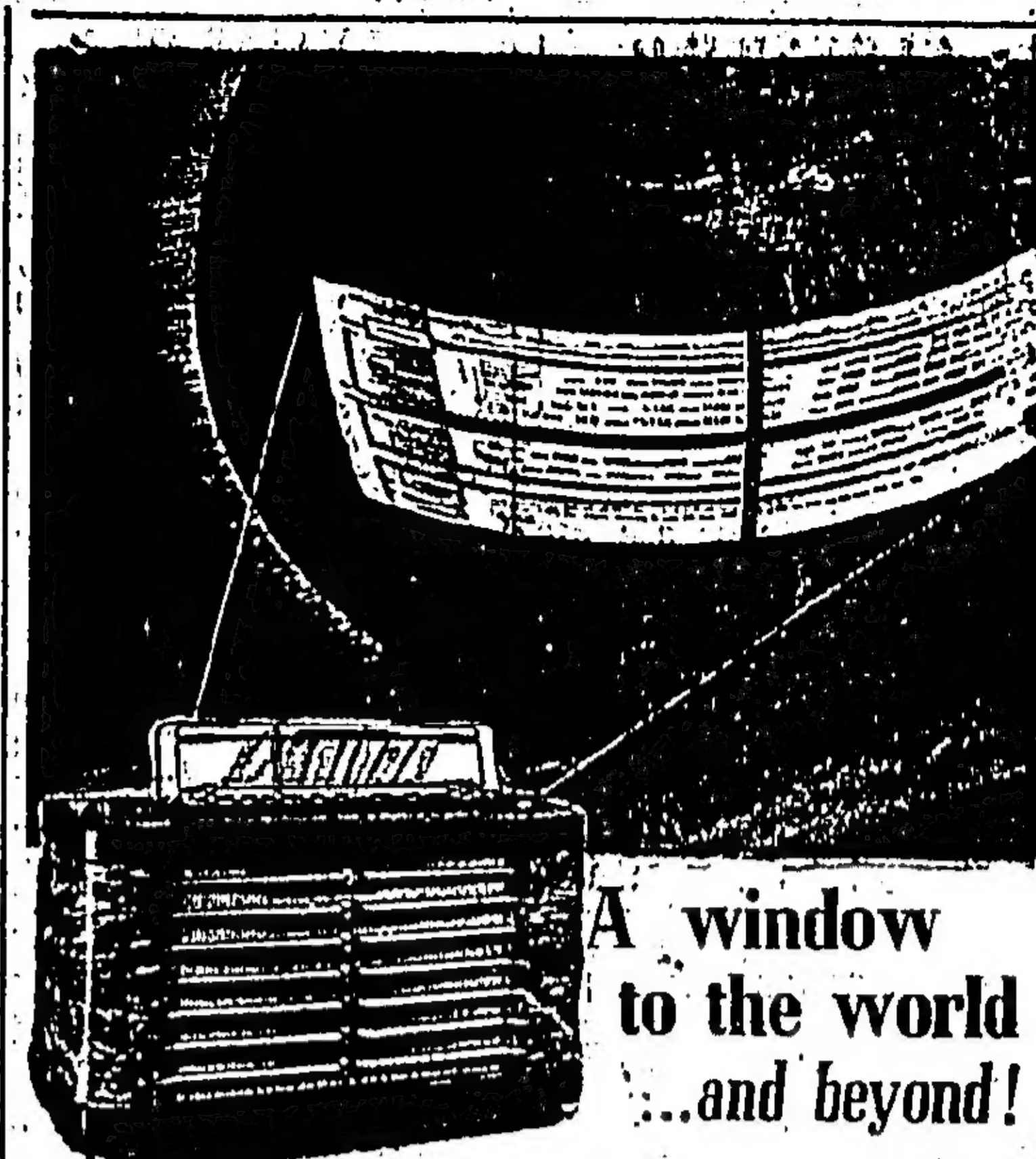
Chan On, he said, admitted collecting 50 cents from the boy.

C.B.A. CABARET DANCE

Members of the C.B.A. and all former students of C.B.S. are reminded that a Cabaret Dance will be held in the Roof Garden, Hong Kong Hotel, on Friday, Dec. 19, from 8.30 p.m. to 2 a.m. A most enjoyable night is assured.

The floor-show programme will include the following items: Exhibition Waltz and Tango; Denis & Yvonne; Vocalist, Ernie Perry; Tap Dance; June Irwin; Aerobic Dance; Audrey Addy; Comedian; Tommy Tomlinson; Feature Dance; Nellie Field; Mouth Organ Solo; W. Gilchrist.

A raffle will be held during the evening. Prizes for the latter will comprise an assortment of "Xmas Spirit". Tickets for the dance are \$10.00 and may be obtained from Messrs. R. Labrum, I. Kempton, N. Whitley, D. Smith, W. Mulcahy; Misses J. Macfadyen, P. Powell, P. Kirby, and Mrs. A. Fowler.



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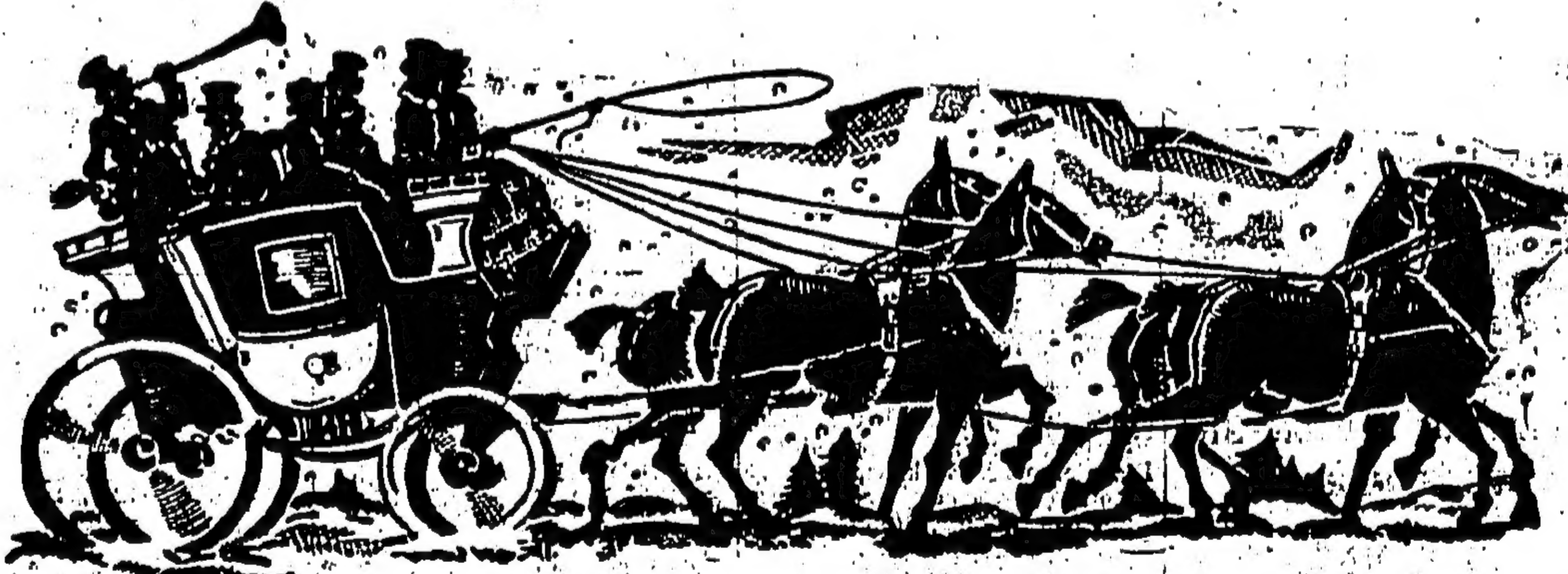
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11.15 p.m.—Studio: Religious Talk to Children.

12.30 p.m.—Daily Programme Summary.

12.35 p.m.—Studio: Gracely and His Musicians & Beryl Davis (Vocal).

1.00 p.m.—News, Weather Report and Announcements.

1.10 p.m.—Orchestral Interlude.

1.15 p.m.—Film Memories by Popular Organists.

1.30 p.m.—"From the Show" — Light Opera.

2.00 p.m.—Close Down.

6.00 p.m.—B.U.C. Transcription Service: George Melachrino & His Orch.

6.30 p.m.—The Immortal Strauss.

6.50 p.m.—Studio: "See You" on Sport.

7.00 p.m.—London Relay: World and Home News.

7.15 p.m.—Studio: Bot Faller at the Piano.

7.35 p.m.—Studio: "Stage and Screen Favorites" presented by Aileen Woods.

8.05 p.m.—A Viola Programme featuring Yehudi Menuhin.

8.30 p.m.—B.U.C. Transcription Service: The London Radio Orchestra.

9.00 p.m.—London Relay: News.

9.10 p.m.—Weather Report.

9.15 p.m.—Studio: "How did it Meet?" A Play by Blair.

A Hong Kong Stage Club Production.

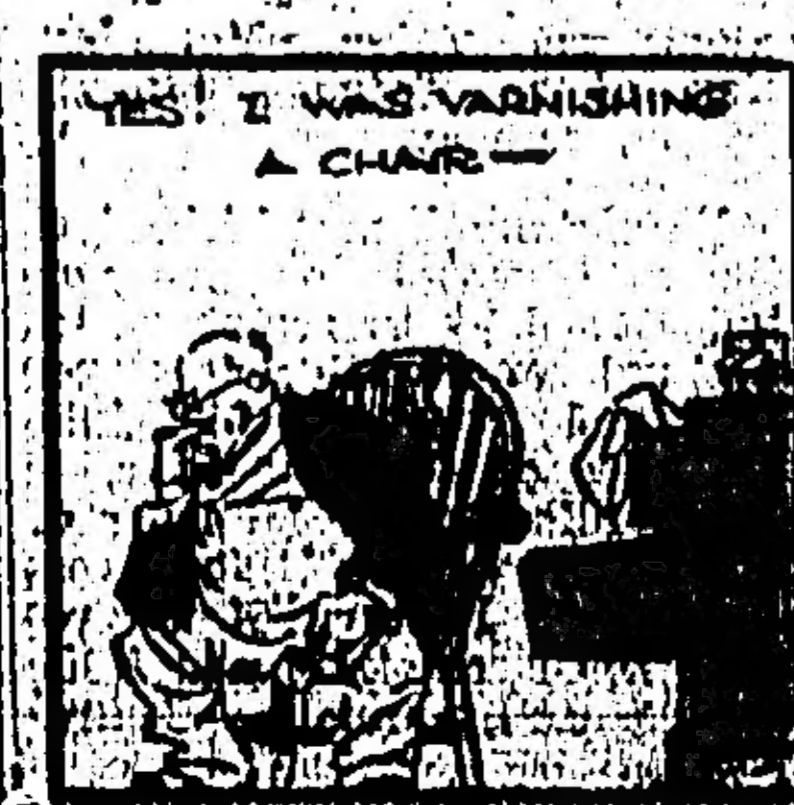
9.30 p.m.—The Kentucky Minstrels.

9.45 p.m.—A Spanish Programme.

10.15 p.m.—Dance from the Hong Kong Hotel of "Gipsy" Dance Orchestra.

11.00 p.m.—Close Down.

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REMOVAL NOTICE

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NOTICE

The HONG SECTION of the DOLLAR DIRECTORY 1948 issue is now closed. Firms sending their copies now, will be included in the Addenda Section.

THE CHINA LIGHT & POWER COMPANY, LIMITED.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Twenty-fifth Ordinary Meeting of the Shareholders will be held at noon, on Wednesday, the 17th day of December, 1947, in the Company's Hong Kong Office, 2nd Floor, St. George's Building, Chater Road, Victoria, Hong Kong, for the purpose of

1. Receiving a Statement of Accounts and Report of the Directors for the year ended 30th September, 1947.
2. To elect two Directors.
3. To appoint Auditors and fix their remuneration.
4. To confirm the Interim Dividend of 35 cents per share and to sanction the recommendation of the Directors as to the payment of a final dividend of \$1.00 per share in respect of fully paid shares and a proportionate amount in respect of partly paid shares, less tax deductible under the Inland Revenue Ordinance, 1947.

The Transfer Books and Register of Shareholders will be closed as from 8th December, 1947, to the 20th December, 1947, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
P. W. A. WOOD,
Secretary & Chief Accountant.
Hongkong, 1st December, 1947.

Service Auction Rooms

Auctioneers, Surveyors, etc. Basement, French Bank Bldg., A.F.B. de Sousa, Auctioneer Telephone 31857.

PUBLIC AUCTION

The Undersigned has received instructions from the Custodian of Property to sell by Public Auction

on Wed., the 17th Dec. 1947 commencing at 10.30 a.m.

at his Sales-Rooms, French Bank Bldg., Basement.

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Bronze Statues, Wall Plaques, Lamp Shades, Cigarette Ash stands, Wall Plates, Pictures in Frames, Etc.

The abovementioned articles will be open for inspection at their respective godowns on 15th and 16th December, 1947, between 10 a.m. and noon and between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Inspection (Permits will be issued by the Undersigned at the Service Auction Rooms.

The Auction is subject to the Conditions of Sale, published in the Hong Kong (British Military Administration) Gazette, Volume 2, No. 12 of 8th March, 1940.

A. E. B. de SOUSA, Auctioneer.

Hongkong, 15th December, 1947.

SUBMARINE'S GREAT FEAT Alliance Submerges For Several Weeks Admiralty's Veil Of Secrecy

London, Dec. 15. A British submarine has remained submerged for several weeks and then surfaced under her own power with her full crew of seven officers and 60 men in good health, the Admiralty said today. Two to three days was the previous limit of submersion.

Apprentices Had "Hot And Cold" Water Fight

A hot and cold water "fight" led to two apprentice painters being bound over in the sum of \$25 over 12 months by Mr. F. X. d'Almada at Central Magistracy yesterday. Leung Sing, 21, was charged with having unlawfully and maliciously inflicted grievous bodily harm upon Pun Sang, 22, by throwing boiling water over him from a hand bowl. It was alleged that at 11.20 p.m. last Saturday Pun accidentally threw some cold water on defendant's foot, which led to an argument. Five minutes later defendant threw some boiling water over Pun in retaliation. The latter was sent to hospital for treatment for his blistered left arm.

FORGED DRIVING LICENSES ALLEGED

When William Maher (30), manager of Hip Shing Transportation Co., 21 Soy Street, and Wong Chi alias Wong Lo (26), licensed driver, appeared on remand before Mr. W. A. Blair-Kerr at Kowloon yesterday on the charges of obtaining money by false pretences, Det. Sub-Inspector D. S. Roberts preferred five additional counts against both defendants. The accused are being further charged with forging two driving licences (Nos. 12226 and 12278) and uttering them to Yip Shing and Wong Shing on Nov. 16 and 23, respectively, and conspiring to obtaining endorsements on the two forged licences.

Maher and Wong were originally charged with obtaining \$180 from Yip Shing on Nov. 16, and \$109 from Wong Shing on Nov. 23, by falsely pretending to be in a position to obtain an endorsement on their respective licences to drive a motor car.

Mr. J. M. d'Almada Remedios, appearing for Maher, stated yesterday that when the case comes up for hearing on Thursday (Dec. 17) he was going to submit that the charge of conspiracy embarrasses his defence.

SPINSTER WAS "GENERAL NUISANCE"

Described by Inspector J. Orem as "general nuisance", with three previous convictions, Lo Mui, 25-year-old spinster, was sentenced to one month's hard labour and recommended for banishment when she pleaded guilty to the charge of causing an obstruction by loitering. She was arrested by Inspector T. Collins at 1.45 a.m. yesterday. Convicted on the charge of soliciting, Cheng Muk-suk, 36, was fined \$25 or two weeks' hard labour by Mr. Latimer yesterday.

Wong Siu-ling, a 20-year-old spinster, was bound over in the sum of \$50 for one week when she was convicted on the charge of soliciting at Granville Road near Carnarvon Road at 9.45 p.m. on Dec. 13.

Acting Secretary, GLORIA REMEDIOS, 114 Argyle Street, Kowloon.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES HOLDING

P. & O. B. I. & E. & A. BILLS OF LADING

Messrs. Goddard & Douglas will attend at 10 a.m. on Mondays and Thursdays within the free storage period to survey damaged cargo, and consignees are requested to have their representatives present. Unless consignees representatives are present at the Survey no claims can thereafter be admitted.

The Auction is subject to the Conditions of Sale, published in the Hong Kong (British Military Administration) Gazette, Volume 2, No. 12 of 8th March, 1940.

A. E. B. de SOUSA, Auctioneer.

Hongkong, 15th December, 1947.

ARABS IN AGREEMENT

Cairo, Dec. 15. General Nuri Es-Said, President of the Iraqi Senate, attended last night's Arab League Council meeting here. After the meeting the Arab League's general secretary, Azam Fathi, said: "We have heard General Nuri's report. We are all agreed. The Zionist State will not live so long as we live." No communique was issued and the Council is to meet again tomorrow evening.—Reuter.

He Stole The Sub-Inspector's Chesterfields

Tsui Shun, 22, plumber was a fink of a firm of contractors employed by the Hong Kong Gas Co. When two others he was sent on Saturday to the quarters of Det. Sub-Inspector Matches at Kowloon City Police Station, to repair a geyser. On his way out, Tsui saw a packet of Chesterfield cigarettes on the sideboard. He took it. Mrs. Matches saw him and told the Inspector about it. When Tsui was taken back to the bedroom, the packet fell out of his pocket. He was fined \$25, or three weeks' hard labour, by Mr. W. A. Blair-Kerr at Kowloon yesterday on the larceny charge.

Y.M.C.A. DEBATE

"That there should be a limit to Free Speech" will be debated at 8.15 p.m. today at the European YMCA in Kowloon. The Debating Society and Discussion Group will move the motion with Mr. F. E. Skinner as the proposer, and Major E. A. Ope, AEC, the Opposer. After the opening speeches and views for and against the motion, the Speaker, Mr. C. E. Terry, will put it to the vote.

Formal Transfer Of Burma

Rangoon, Dec. 15. The Union Jack will be lowered at Government House, Rangoon, at 9.40 a.m. (Burma Time) on Jan. 4, 1948, the time fixed for the formal transfer of power from Britain to Burma, and the National flag of independent Burma, a star-spangled tricolour, will be hoisted in its place.

Sir Hubert Rance, the last Governor of Burma, Lady Rance and the Governor's staff will leave Government House immediately afterwards and drive in state along the main streets of Rangoon before embarking in the cruiser H.M.S. Birmingham, to sail to Ceylon.

The first President of the Burmese Republic, Mr. Saw Shwe Thak, Sawbwa of Yawnghwe, will take up residence at Government House.

Popular celebrations of Independence Day will begin early on Jan. 4, with the beating of Burmese ceremonial drums and the ringing of temple bells throughout the country.

The Union Jack will be hoisted down and the Burmese flag raised in its place throughout Rangoon.

The Independence Day celebration committee today announced

MEDICINE SMUGGLER MISSED OUT

Trying to avoid the customs cost Lam Shum Yee his basket of medicine and \$100 fine. Defendant appeared before Mr. J. G. Conklin at Central Magistracy yesterday on a charge of having dutiable goods on which duty had not been paid.

Revenue Officer Redman said that after the arrival of the S.S. "Kwong Sai" defendant ran across the wharf and tried to hide his goods on another ship along side the wharf. Revenue Officer Redman asked for the confiscation of the goods.

TURNED BACK

London, Dec. 14. Clement Michalland, 20-year-old Frenchman, described as the owner of a Swiss hotel, was sent back to Switzerland today after he arrived at London Airport from Zurich. Emigration officers questioned him and found his papers were not in order.—Reuter.

FIRST CHINESE LOCOMOTIVE

Taiyuan, Dec. 15. The first China-made locomotive was put on trial today along the Taiyuan-Yutzu section of the Taiyuan-Shihchiang Railway.

The locomotive, which took the Northwest Locomotive Factory 100 days to complete, has a speed of 35 kilometers per hour and consumes 840 kilograms of coal per hour.

According to the Manager of the Factory, the Northwest Locomotive Factory is to produce 100 locomotives and 2,000 freight cars annually.—Central News.

Pirates Seize Dutch Ship

(Continued from Page 1)

"At about 9.40 p.m. when nearing Chilaung Point, I was ordered to bring the ship closer to shore. Between 4 to 6 a.m. the ship was anchored. A motor life boat was lowered in which the pirates put the loot.

"At the bay next to Blas Bay I was told that if I attempted to ground the ship, all of us would be killed.

"At 6.30 a.m. two junks were sighted. The pirates began firing and the junks came alongside.

"They ordered another life boat to be lowered. This was manned by me, the Chief Officer and some members of the crew.

Hostages

"Six Chinese were taken away as hostages. They were Tang Kong Piat, Tan Cheng Seng, Kit Cheung, Pak Ki Po, Parkson Chan and K. P. Young.

"The first named has a wife, two sons and two daughters on the ship.

"Mr. Parkson Chan is a Member of the Committee of Overseas Affairs of the Executive Yuan Office at Swatow.

"After putting the pirates ashore, the life boat with all members returned to the ship, arriving at 7.30 a.m.

"A wire was sent to Hong Kong reporting the piracy and the ship proceeded back to Hong Kong.

"It was indeed surprising that no damage was done to the wireless, set. There was no chance of making use of it to summon assistance."

Asked if this was his first piracy experience, the Captain replied that he encountered a similar one on the Can Cloon in 1922.

It was however more of a mutiny than piracy. At the time there were over 600 deportees on board. The trouble subsided only when soldiers were sent on board from Singapore.

The Captain said it was a coincidence that it was only on this trip that piracy guards were dispensed with.

Compradore Missed

The pirates he said were most anxious to get the compradore. In spite of their search they were unable to find him.

Even after the pirates left the Captain had great difficulty in locating him.

The ship carried a complement of 17 Dutch Officers and 116 Chinese crew.

There were about 25 pirates. Mr. W. J. Collings, Chartered Accountant attached to the Singapore Government, was the only European passenger on board at the time of the piracy.

He was in his cabin reading a story of a naval action when suddenly five men, armed with pistols and light machine-guns, entered his cabin. They asked for arms.

They searched him and, finding nothing, escorted him up to the bridge.

The pirates emptied one of his suitcases and took it away with his sun glasses, a wrist watch and fountain pen.

Other large suitcases in his cabin were untouched. They contained money and other valuables.

At about 4.00 a.m. the ship's lights were ordered out, probably because another ship was sighted.

Mr. Collings said he definitely recognized one of the pirates as a man he had seen at Singapore.

Mr. Leo Chong Liang, a contractor of Singapore, said the pirates took everything they could lay their hands on in his cabin.

He lost well over two thousand dollars in money and property, including a ring worth over \$100.

The pirates also kidnapped his friend, Tan Kong Piat.

Doctor And Son

Dr. G. Y. Ong, medical officer was in his cabin with his young son when loud knocks were made on his door.

He made no answer. He was threatened that if the door was not opened shots would be fired.

When the door was opened, the pirates began to bully his son.

Asked for money, the doctor handed over \$100. The pirates were not satisfied and began ransacking the place.

They took away 20 tins of cigarettes and various other articles.

Nearly all the pirates spoke Cantonese.

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WORLD'S RICE PROSPECTS Still Below The Pre-War Average China Production Slightly Higher

Washington, Dec. 14.—The world's rice crop for the harvest year of 1947-1948 is expected to be 150,000,000 bushels greater than last year's, but will still be 350,000,000 bushels below the pre-war average, the United States Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations said today.

The 1947-1948 crop, it was estimated, will be 7,050,000,000 bushels compared with 6,900,000,000 bushels for the previous year, with most of the production increase coming from Asia. Areas affected by the war. A record acreage has been planted in Europe, where production will slightly exceed pre-war. North American and African crops are above the high level of the previous year, but a production decline is possible in South America.

Asian Acreage

Asia's production was estimated at 6,580,000,000 bushels in 1946-1947, and 7,100,000,000 bushels pre-war.

Excluding India, the acreage of the Asiatic countries has increased by two million to three million bushels.

Primarily because of some reduction in India's acreage and production, Asia's total harvest shows a relatively small rise. In the pre-war surplus areas of Burma, Siam and French Indo-China, the total production might be 60,000,000 or 100,000,000 bushels greater than last year.

In China

The greatest progress in increasing acreage was in Burma, where nearly 900,000 more acres were planted. Siam's produc-

tion is about 25 per cent greater, but there is some decrease in French Indo-China's production. China's production is only slightly higher with an acreage still 1,400,000 acres less than the pre-war average.

The South Korea crop is 15 per cent higher. Japan's acreage is higher, but unfavourable weather has reduced the production below last year's. The Philippines' production exceeds the pre-war average and 80,000 more acres have been planted in Malaya.—Reuter.

Ibn Saud's Warning On Partition

New York, Dec. 15.—King Ibn Saud, of Saudi Arabia, stated that he would protect and maintain United States oil operations and other interests in Saudi Arabia regardless of what happens in Palestine.

King Ibn Saud was reported to have said that the United States made a mistake in supporting the United Nations decision to partition Palestine, but he hoped they would correct it.

He denied reports that his Government was prepared to cancel American oil concessions as "untrue and irresponsible."

King Ibn Saud said that pressure from other Arab leaders to oppose U.S. interests had been "heavy, but availing."

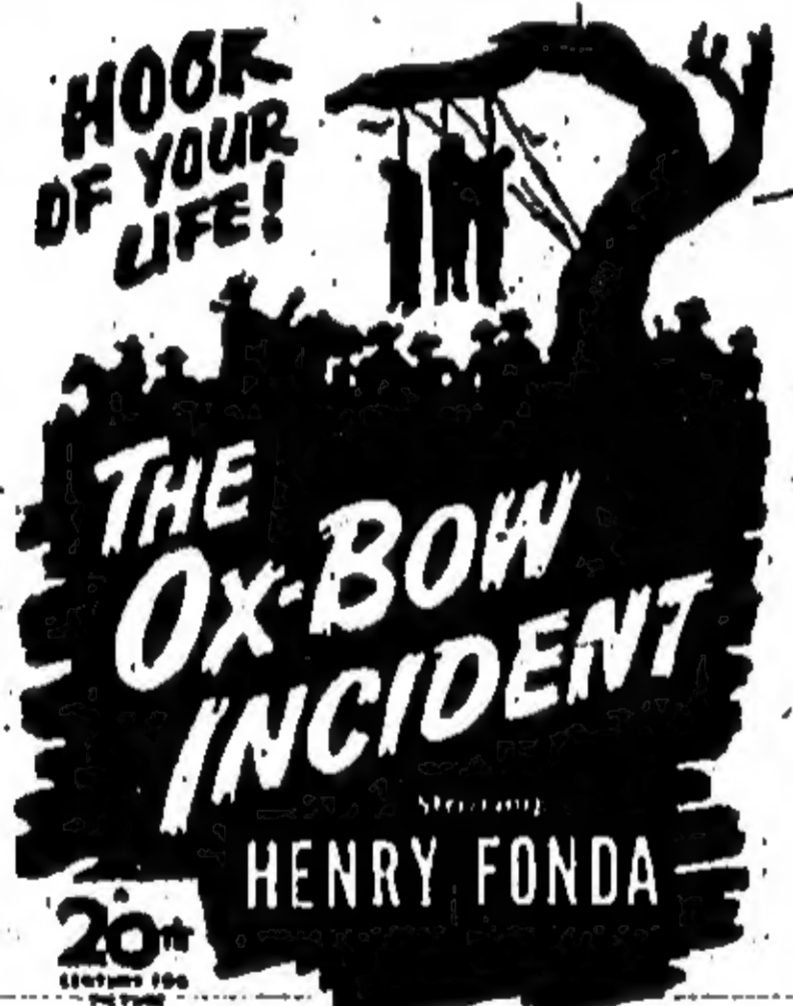
He accused Russia of supporting the partition plan solely to drive a wedge between the Arab world and the United States.

He hoped the United States would do nothing more to split Palestine and cause a schism which would end in Communism, a result which the United States would not like.—Reuter.

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CHANGE BEFORE HE

RETURNS TO THE

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AND EVERY

ONE BRINGS

DON ANSELMO AND

ERIC NEARER

I HOPE

THE

CHARGE, FRITZ!

Gasperi Cabinet To Be Strengthened

Rome, Dec. 14.—Well informed sources said today that Premier Alcide de Gasperi, facing new threats of trouble from Communist labour leaders, has presented informally to President Enrico de Nicola a revised Cabinet list including moderate Leftist parties.

Price Of Coal Up In Britain

LONDON, DEC. 15.—THE NATIONAL COAL BOARD ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT IT HAS RAISED THE PRICE OF EXPORTED BRITISH COAL BY 25 SHILLINGS A TON BUT DECLINED TO DISCLOSE EITHER NEW OR OLD EXPORT PRICES.

The price rise for coal exports became effective on Dec. 1 and a similar increase for bunker coal for foreign-bound ships will take effect on Jan. 1.

Average pithead cost of coal is 45/4d. a ton.

The price rise was considered significant mainly because Britain only this month resumed coal exports and has a target of exporting 10,000,000 tons next year.—Associated Press.

NEW BALKAN CONVENTION

Sofia, Dec. 14.—An Albanian Government delegation headed by General Baver Hodja, Premier of Albania, arrived here today to sign a cultural convention with the Bulgarian Government.

At Sofia railway station, General Hodja, wearing the uniform of a Colonel-General, and his wife, were greeted by M. Georgi Dimitrov, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, members of the Bulgarian Cabinet, and diplomatic representatives in Sofia.—Reuter.

COLLABORATORS ESCAPE

Paris, Dec. 14.—Twenty-nine of 39 prisoners who escaped from Hauge Prison, near Samur, in western France, yesterday have been captured, the Ministry of Justice announced tonight.

The prisoners, most of whom were collaborationists, made their escape after having bound the chief prison guard in his office and cut the telephone wires.—Reuter.

Michael's Romance Latest

LAUSANNE, DEC. 14.—THE RUMANIAN GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A MARRIAGE BETWEEN 26-YEAR-OLD KING MICHAEL OF RUMANIA AND PRINCESS ANNE OF BOURBON-PARMA, WERE BROUGHT TO SWITZERLAND TODAY BY COUNT N. DIMITRI NEGEL, MARSHAL OF THE RUMANIAN COURT.

Count Negel, who will convey the views to King Michael, travelled by train from Bucharest.

He was expected to arrive tomorrow morning in Lausanne, where King Michael is staying with his mother, Queen Helen, and Princess Anne.

King Michael will spend tomorrow in conference with Count Negel and an announcement may be made afterwards.

Princess Anne and her mother, Princess Margaret of Denmark, who were due to leave for Copenhagen on Tuesday, have now decided to go to Luxembourg.

King Michael, accompanied by Queen Helen, will probably leave for Rumania on Tuesday or Wednesday evening.—Reuter.

OUTLOOK FOR CHINA AID DIM

Washington, Dec. 14.—Emergency aid for Europe and China faced prospect today of another slash of US\$50,000,000 to US\$100,000,000 or more before it passes Congress, with the likelihood that China will be dropped from the bill altogether.

This possibility arose as an influential sub-group of the House Appropriations Committee was reported today to have reached a tentative decision, reducing the US\$197,000,000 measure—with its work unfinished and subject to change.

The preliminary agreement was said to be this:
1—Removal of China from the bill.
2—A cut of US\$50,000,000 to US\$60,000,000 in aid for France, Austria and Italy.

The big question remaining: Should another US\$50,000,000 or so be dropped off because China is not included?

The sub-committee, which has not disclosed any results of its closed door deliberations, will continue tomorrow. Its decisions must go before the full committee later, but Chairman Taber Republican of New York, is in charge of both groups and committee approval therefore is likely.—Associated Press.

U.S. Aid For Greece

Athens, Dec. 14.—The Greek armed forces have already been allocated \$150,000,000 worth of materials by the United States aid mission under the \$300,000,000 plan, according to a statement by the mission.

In addition, technical advisers were being provided for the general staffs of the three Greek services.

Import licenses for goods valued at \$20,450,000 had been issued up to Dec. 6 and the aid to the Greek population totalled \$23,689,000.

The statement said that there had been an increase of 600,000 million drachmas in Greek budgetary receipts as a result of the improved distribution of taxation and the imposition of new taxes.

The report said that American assistance to Greece "warmed the hearts of all peoples believing in the maintenance of free institutions and of Greek national independence."—Reuter.

MILLIONAIRE INJURED

Mexico City, Dec. 15.—Axel Werner-Gren, Swedish millionaire, was critically injured today in an automobile accident on the Mexico City-Cuenavaca highway.

The industrialist was brought to the Red Cross hospital here for treatment. An attendant said his condition was "grave."—Associated Press.

VICTORY

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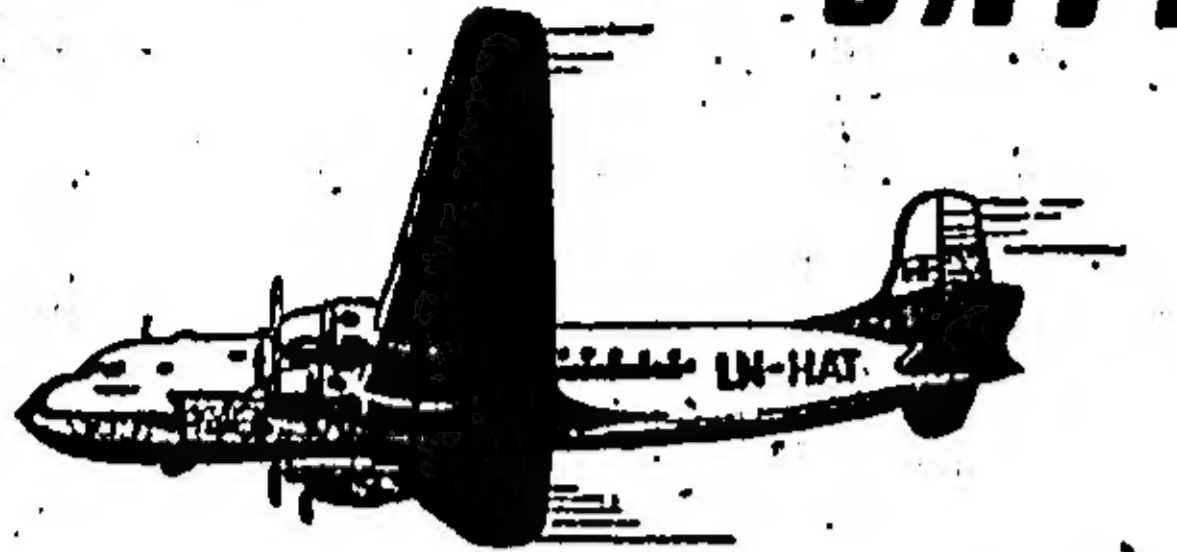
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BRITAIN TURNS THE CORNER

New Surge Of Optimism In Country

Things On The "Up And Up"

London, Dec. 15.
Increasing evidence that Britain is beating back poverty has brought a new surge of optimism to these islands.

A spokesman for the office of Sir Stafford Cripps, boss of Britain's economics and finance, said: "Things are on the up and up." Headlines which once told only of new ration cuts and new crises, now hail good news.

The most spectacular bright spot is in coal production. It has risen steadily to the point where exports have been renewed. Arthur Horner, Communist General Secretary of the National Mineworkers Union, predicts the country can export 14,000,000 tons next year and regain her pre-war volume of 50,000,000 tons in two years. Britain promised to export 10,000,000 tons next year under the Marshall Plan.

Even the black spots in the industrial picture are brightening a little. The shortage of rail cars is so bad it may produce another crisis before spring. But volunteers are helping to make up for the decline in rolling stock.

War-time Spirit

This resurgence of the war-time spirit to work harder is difficult to figure in statistics. But a Coal Board spokesman said this factor was largely responsible for coal production exceeding 4,000,000 tons in four successive weeks.

Britain's greatest economic headache—her foreign trade deficit—would be greatly eased if the Marshall Plan goes into effect. Britain's export production has been boosted well over 1938 levels. But vastly higher prices abroad curtail the purchasing power from this income. The Marshall Plan would help carry the deficit burden until export production reaches the goal of 175 per cent of the 1938 volume. This is the official level for self-support.

Foreign Trade

Britain is mending her foreign trade fences with new agreements. Last week, an agreement "in principle" was reached with Russia to bring England 500,000 tons of vitally needed grain.

Steadily increasing industrial employment is helping production for export. Mine manpower is slowly creeping upward. So is mine mechanisation. Employment in steel and heavy metal trades is considerably above pre-war levels, and still going up.

The same story can be told for others—automobiles, gas and electricity, public transport.

Employment

Production is climbing too. Iron and steel output is bowling along at a rate of about 14,000,000 tons a year, edging above its wartime record.

Employment and production are down from pre-war levels in some industries—chiefly textile. Others include tailoring, paper making, publishing, furniture manufacture, shoe-

making, and the commercial, financial and distributive businesses.

On long-term plans, electricity generation and increased farm production are major items. In the first seven months of this year, Britain produced enough electricity generating equipment to turn out 650,000 kilowatts—more than twice last year's total production of such equipment.

Manpower

Mechanisation of agriculture, speeded up during the war, is proceeding. The output of tractors and plowing, planting and harvesting machinery is at record levels. Fertiliser is produced at twice the pre-war rate.

There is a major step in a programme of increased self-sufficiency, said a Government spokesman. Manpower is a key problem on the farms. German prisoners-of-war, used as standby help, will be virtually all gone by summer. A programme of recruiting volunteer workers to spend their vacations at farm work is under way.—Associated Press.

"Rouble Bloc" To Be Formed?

Moscow, Dec. 14.
The immediate reaction of the people of Russia to today's announcement of the end of rationing, was one of rejoicing at the prospect of more ample supplies of food and consumer goods at lower prices.

All restaurants in the city of Moscow were full tonight. Millions of people stayed at home to listen to the announcement and large crowds gathered round loudspeakers in public squares, clubs and hotels.

The new decree was regarded as having the effect of drastically checking speculation and raising the standard of living of the people by increasing their purchasing power with slashing price reductions.

Meanwhile, a statement from Washington says there is a possibility that the Soviet Union might seek to establish a working international value for the rouble in areas under Russian influence following the announcement of the devaluation of the rouble.

Rouble Bloc

The rouble at present has only a nominal international value because no international transactions are conducted in it.

Officials there pointed out, however, that if Russia succeeds in adjusting the rouble's purchasing power for international purposes, it would assist her in expanding her trade in Scandinavia, Eastern Europe and all the countries with which Russia is operating clearing agreements.

They described the new currency area as a "rouble bloc" in

competition with the sterling bloc or dollar bloc.

Some considered that such a move would assist Russia in competing with the operation of the Marshall Plan in Europe.

Trade by Russia with other countries is at present on a bilateral basis, the exchange of commodities being calculated in terms of currency of the country with which Russia is trading.—Reuter.

NOT CERTAIN OF DEMOCRACY?

Geneva, Dec. 15.
The fear that Americans were losing confidence in the ability of their democracy to meet new situations was expressed today by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, widow of the late United States President, who for the past ten days has been presiding over the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

"We are tending to certain repressive measures which would not be necessary if we were absolutely certain of our ability to make our democracy work," she said.—Reuter.

NO LONGER RESTLESS

Shanghai, Dec. 15.
South China ports have lost that restless feeling witnessed during the war. Admiral Charles M. Cooke, Commander of the U.S. Western Pacific Fleet, said in Tientsin yesterday, according to Chinese reports.

Admiral Cooke has just returned to his base in Tientsin following a prolonged tour of Southern Asia, during which he called at Hong Kong, Singapore, Manila and Formosa.—Reuter.

Goldsmiths Win A Victory

Shanghai, Dec. 15.
Goldsmiths have won their protracted battle for free trading in gold, according to Chinese reports from Nanking.

A responsible official of the Ministry of Finance was quoted as declaring that gold dealers would be allowed to resume business but that they would be required to abide by the following rules:

1. Gold bars cannot be used for sale.
2. Gold ornament prices shall be controlled by the Social Affairs Bureau of the local governments.
3. No gold bars will be supplied by the Central Bank.—Reuter.

Surgery By Sound Waves

LOS ANGELES, DEC. 15.
BRAIN SURGERY BY SOUND WAVES INSTEAD OF THE KNIFE IS IN PROCESS OF BEING PERFECTED.

An acoustics expert, Dr. Isadore Ruanick of the Pennsylvania State College, told the Acoustical Society of America today that great progress had been made in the use of sound waves as a surgical implement.

Dr. Rudnick said research men at Columbia University had been able with sound waves selectively to stimulate and destroy brain tissue of animals, and had proven, could eliminate one small section of a diseased brain tissue while leaving the rest of the brain untouched.

Sounds 10,000 times as intense as the sense level of the human ear killed mosquitoes in 15 seconds, cockroaches and mice in 60 seconds and caterpillars in 195 seconds. The same waves produce burns on human hands when thrust in front of their powerful beams, he said.

Dr. Rudnick said he doubted if sound could ever be used to kill human beings because the sound waves lost their intensity in a short distance.—United Press.

SOOTHING THEIR SOULS

New York, Dec. 15.

Since the first atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima more people are listening to serious music, said Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra conductor Dimitri Mitropoulos today.

He explained "Men will realize that music, like religion, has power to sustain and soothe the soul in time of trouble."—United Press.

AMERICAN HYSTERIA ABOUT COMMUNISM

(Continued from Page 6)

(3) The Communist organ, "Daily Worker," denounced Gen. Marshall's words as being a proposal for "another investment in Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's war on the Chinese people."

The Worker also had some comment on the Philippines, saying: "Not all the truth about how bad things are under the Gen. MacArthur sponsored Roxas administration has appeared in the press... Here is a minor but significant example: Under military pressure there a Hollywood film 'Story of William Tell' has been banned throughout the Philippines."

Military commanders felt that the portrayal of the overthrow of a brutal government was 'subversive and might fan a fire in troubled areas.'—United Press.

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Departure Lungchow Airport, Shanghai, 10 a.m.
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CONTRADICTIONARY OPINIONS**
No Fear Of Depression Before 1951
**Views Of Local
Businessmen**

(By MARGARET R. BOWES)

Two contradictory views on this Colony's economic future were expressed in well-informed trade circles here this week.

The first was that Hong Kong need not anticipate a depression before 1951 and then only if the United States has one, in which case, Hong Kong would, of course, merely suffer with the rest of the world.

The other view is that the Colony's economy is on the downgrade; in fact a depression is now under way.

"Hong Kong's golden days of prosperity are not over," declared the first source, who declined to be identified, "although there may be a bit of a letdown of speculative business in view of the fact that Hong Kong has over-bought."

He anticipated, however, no immediate decrease in business. The expectation, he said, is that there will be a shifting in traders' inquiries from the dollar areas to the cheaper sterling and "kindred countries." There already is evidence that such a movement is under way, he asserted.

Exchange Allocations
He predicted that official exchange in the future would probably only be given for capital equipment and raw materials essential to the rehabilitation of the Colony and its industry.

All traders able to supply their own exchange will continue to import, he said, but inquiries for United States goods are beginning to fall. This condition he attributed to the increased cost of unofficial exchange for such goods "from a country where prevailing prices are already exceptionally high."

He would not estimate how many traders in 1948 would find such conditions favourable to the prosecution of business.

Smuggling
To the suggestion that the new foreign exchange ruling might curtail smuggling be-

tween Hong Kong and the surrounding area, he replied, "I don't see how it could." However, if imports are controlled, even in this indirect way, it seems logical that smaller quantities of goods will find their way over the border, especially if prices should develop an upward trend—as might happen, should demand exceed supply in the Colony itself.

Taking an opposite view, the other authoritative observer asserted that a depression had been under way in the Colony "for the past six to eight weeks" and said that smuggling, at a lower ebb now than it had been for some time, was merely a "political football" at present being kicked about by the Governments of Hong Kong and China.

Tightening Up
Declaring that "things are tightening up," this man pointed to the fact of existing commodity shortages, which, he said, could not be taken care of by any switch to sterling area purchases. England, he pointed out, was in desperate need of dollars; therefore, her exports would not go to Hong Kong in any quantity, but rather to dollar areas. Existing shortages, he predicted, would in three months' time reach the crisis stage.

"Things are not as good now as they were last month—and things next month will be worse," he stated.

A brighter prospect was possible, he said, for those who could afford to take the long view. He could see some possibility of the Colony's evolving in the future as a textile centre for the British Empire, since outside capital was coming in (largely from Shanghai) for such industries—and since it is part of the policy of the Colonial Government to encourage such industries.

Real Estate
The real estate picture too, he thought, indicated a long-term possibility for Hong Kong. A drop in prices in the next year seemed likely in his opinion. "People are building instead of paying high rents," he said, adding that it was also a part of the Government's policy to give priority to building materials and so to encourage building.

Whether the long-term view is a realistic one or not considering possible political developments in the Hong Kong-Canton area remains to be seen. And, as for the deflation of Hong Kong's economic balloon, the question does not seem to be "whether" but "when?" Businessmen say that it will be soon.—Associated Press.

**SUIT AGAINST
DUPONT**

Washington, Dec. 15. Charging monopoly of the telephone industry in the United States, the Justice Department today announced it had filed suit against the E. I. DuPont de Nemours Corporation to force it to sell some of its plants.

Attorney-General Tom Clark said DuPont for years has produced more than two-thirds of the telephone in this country.—Associated Press.

**Secret German Plan
For Constitution**

Frankfurt, Dec. 15. A preliminary draft of a constitution for an interim federal government of Western Germany has been secretly drawn up by German leaders of the American zone.

The draft constitution was approved by the American zone's political committee, which also includes British and French representatives. It leaves the door open for the inclusion of other zones. The draft constitution was approved by the American zone's political committee, which also includes British and French representatives. It leaves the door open for the inclusion of other zones.



So many photographers' flashlights went off when M. Molotov left the Foreign Office that he was blinded for the moment and as shown in this picture he is being escorted down the Foreign Office steps. On right is Zorubin, Soviet Ambassador in London. (A.P. Photo)

**China Attitude To
Japan Peace**

Nanking, Dec. 15.

A Foreign Office source today confirmed the receipt of the London reply to the Chinese proposal for an 11-nation Far Eastern Commission drafting the Japanese peace treaty with the Big Four retaining the veto power.

The source said the contents of the British note are being closely studied.

The official source, commenting on the Japanese peace, reiterated that China aims to prevent any new Japanese aggression and claimed that China considers her veto power to be the best guarantee that this would be accomplished.

He said China feels that the Japanese treaty could only be effective if Russia participates. He said China is not insisting on holding peace talks in China but welcomes the Soviet proposal of choosing China as the site for the conference.

The source reiterated that China is not trying to block Japanese efforts for self-sufficiency but hopes that Japan will politically, economically and militarily not menace China in particular and the world in general.—United Press.

SAN FRANCISCO, DEC. 14.

NORTHWEST AIRLINES SAID TODAY IT HAD BEEN NOTIFIED BY THE ARMY DEPARTMENT OF THE REMOVAL OF ALL RESTRICTIONS ON CIVIL AIRLINE PASSAGE THROUGH JAPAN FOR TRAVELLERS OF ALL NATIONALITIES.

It said passengers will no longer be required to obtain in transit military permits to pass through Japan. Military permits are still required, however, for stopovers in Japan.

The new order affects all passengers on Northwest Airlines' flights to Shanghai or Manila, since these flights go through Tokyo.—Associated Press.

**JAPS WANT TO BE
CHINESE**

Shanghai, Dec. 15. The Changchun office of Foreign Affairs has received over 400 applications for naturalization from Japanese women in Manchuria, married to Chinese.

The applications are being forwarded to the Ministry of the Interior in Nanking for a final decision, the reports added.—Reuter.

**H.C.L. IN
SHANGHAI**

Shanghai, Dec. 15. The China Yung Shing Bank, quoting an authoritative economic agency in Shanghai, today reported that price rises last week brought the general index of wholesale prices to a new high of 123,597 times pre-war levels.

The Government's cost of living index for employees is now roughly 50,000 times pre-war living costs, but most businessmen believe that it will rise sharply when the index is announced into this month.—United Press.

**H.K. BOOM
ON THE
WANE?**

Shanghai, Dec. 15.

The morning newspaper, China Press, in an editorial today predicted that the "post-war boom" in Hong Kong in waning with harder times ahead.

It said that "business has been slowly declining—although certainly not on the scale seen in Shanghai over the past year—and sterner import regulations are coming into force."

The editorial asserted that the prosperity in Hong Kong depends on the prosperity of China and for that reason "the Hong Kong Government recently has shown a growing spirit of co-operation with the Chinese Government, negotiating financial matters and taking steps to fight the smuggling of goods from the colony to the mainland."

"The Hong Kong Government realizes that a total collapse of China's economy would have disastrous results in Hong Kong no less than in Shanghai, Canton and other cities in China."

The editorial concluded that there is every reason to hope for closer Hong Kong-China relations in the economic field.—United Press.

**H.C.L. Soaring
In Canada**

Ottawa, Dec. 15.

A steady upward march in Canada's cost of living brought increased pressure today from consumer groups for Parliamentary intervention. However, the Government held to its chosen course of avoiding any general imposition of price controls.

A delegation of more than 75 housewives from eastern Canadian cities called on Finance Minister Douglas Abbott. They told him they wanted prices rolled back to the pre-1943 level, general restoration of price controls, and reinstatement of subsidies on flour, milk and fuel.

They asked reimposition of the excess profits tax and establishment of a price control board.—Associated Press.

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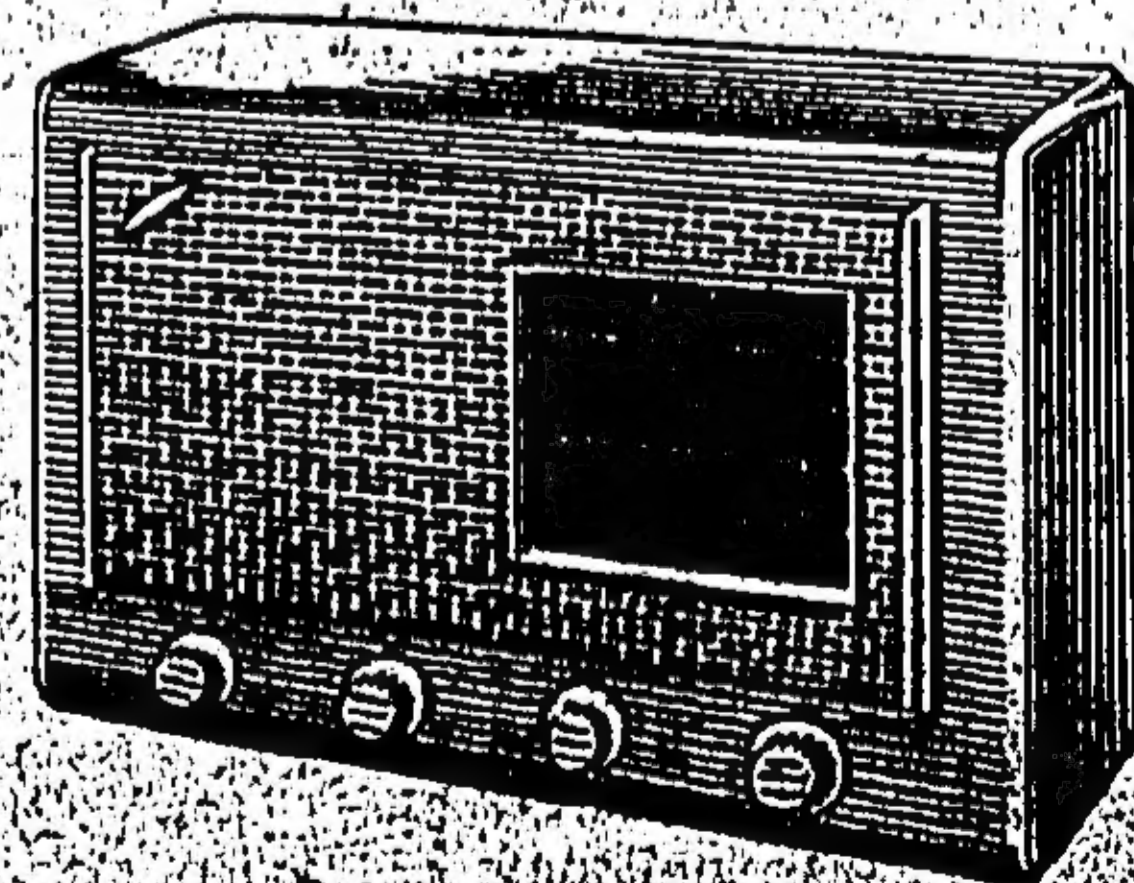
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SOVIET DEVALUES ROUBLE

Prices Of Industrial Goods Reduced

Criticism Of Royal Allowance

LONDON, DEC. 14. TWO LEFT WING NEWSPAPERS TODAY DEBATED THE ALLOWANCES FOR PRINCESS ELIZABETH AND PRINCE PHILIP.

"Reynolds News" asserted that the larger amount "is too much" and said "In the best interest of the throne and the people, Parliament should revise" it.

"In Britain today a style of living that calls for a joint income of £50,000 is altogether too elaborate," the paper said.

The "Sunday Pictorial" however, said that the Cabinet "will unquestionably accept the higher amount."

The "Pictorial" leaned toward approval of the £50,000 a year saying that it amounted to 48,000,000 farthings—"a farthing a head if every person in this country contributed."

—Associated Press.

U.N. Council Meetings

Lake Success, Dec. 15. Two meetings of the United Nations Security Council, one dealing with the Indonesian-Dutch conflict and the other with Trieste, top the U.N. programme this week.

On Tuesday the Council will meet to decide whether Australia will be asked to continue as a member of the three-nation good offices commission which is trying to settle the Indonesian fighting.

Australia will leave the Council on Dec. 31, and the question arises whether that would force her off the Commission.

On Wednesday the Council will hold a closed meeting to discuss the governance of Trieste. Thus far the five great powers have been unable to agree on a governor. —Associated Press.

Rationing System Abolished

London, Dec. 14. Soviet currency is to be reformed on Tuesday, Dec. 16, under a decree broadcast by the Moscow Radio today, which said bank-depositors of the "overwhelming majority of depositors" would retain their previous value.

The decree was issued in the name of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union and the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, which declared that the reform, necessitated by wartime developments, would leave unchanged Soviet obligations under agreements with other countries.

"The Soviet State faces the tasks of carrying out a currency reform for the purpose of strengthening the exchange rate of the rouble as well as abolition of the rationing system for supplies and of proceeding to expand trade at unified State prices," the decree stated.

It recorded that during the war the circulation of money increased while the production of consumption goods fell, adding that the monetary circulation had been swelled by "false money" issued by the invaders during World War II.

The State prices for rationed goods had been maintained constant, but free market prices had at times risen to ten to 15 times the pre-war level—a situation exploited by "speculative elements" to accumulate great quantities.

Details of the proposed exchange rates for the new money were given as follows: Bank deposits up to 3,000 roubles at par value. Bank deposits between 3,000 and 10,000 roubles 3,000 roubles at par, the remainder at three old roubles to two new roubles.

Deposits over 10,000 roubles, 3,000 roubles at par; 7,000 roubles at the rate of three old roubles for two new roubles and

the remainder at two old roubles to one new rouble.

Money in cooperative undertakings and organizations and collective farms: Five old roubles for four new roubles.

State loans issued before 1947: To be consolidated into a "unified loan" on the basis of three old roubles in previous loans for one new rouble in the unified loan.

The decree pointed out that this was a more advantageous rate than was laid down for the conversions of cash.

State Price
"While the currency reform is being effected the wages of workers and employees as well as the income of peasants from State deliveries and other labour incomes of all sections of the population will not be affected by the reform but will be paid in the new money at the previous rates," the statement declared.

Bank deposit transactions would be suspended on Dec. 15, 16 and 17.

The decree announced that in future the difference between the "commercial" (free market) price and the "rationed" price would be abolished, making way for a single State retail price. It instructed the Ministry of Commerce to fix in accordance with the reform new prices for food products and industrial products.

The new schedule, however, would not apply to collective farm markets.

The new uniform prices for industrial goods would be on an average less than one-third of the present commercial prices.

Privileged Hit
The decree promised that the losses incurred by the overwhelming majority of working people through the conversion would be "short-term and insignificant, while it would hit, first of all, the privileged elements."

The working population's losses would be fully compensated by the abolition of high commercial prices and the reduction of existing rationed prices on bread and cereals. However, the population must bear some of the "great sacrifices" required, "especially as this will be the last sacrifice."

The rationed prices for bread would be reduced by an average of 12 percent and for cereals by ten percent. Beer would be about ten percent cheaper.

Unified prices of other food-stuffs would be maintained in general at existing levels. Wine and vodka would remain unchanged in price.

Unified prices for industrial goods would be at a rather higher level as compared with low ration prices although reduced by an average of one-third as compared with commercial prices.

Prices of meat, fish, fats, sugar, tobacco, confectionery, potatoes

and other vegetables would be the same as previous ration prices. New prices would be fixed for milk and eggs. —Reuter.

U.S. TROOPS QUIT ITALY

Leghorn, Dec. 15. The last American occupation troops in Italy sailed yesterday aboard the transport, Admiral Sims, nine hours and 45 minutes ahead of the midnight deadline set for their departure by the Italian peace treaty.

A small graves liquidation and registration unit remains behind in Rome, under special treaty provisions, and no longer on an occupation assignment. —Associated Press.

Grim Words Of Marseilles Communist

Marseilles, Dec. 15. The Communist Deputy, Jean Cristofol, today urged Party members who participated in last week's unsuccessful fight to prepare for an "even harder fight," which he predicted would take place soon.

Speaking at a Communist mass meeting, Cristofol termed the end of the strikes "strategic withdrawal" by the Party. He urged Communists to "remain more united than ever and to be ready for harder battle which will take place in the future, perhaps near."

Cristofol has been charged with being the leader of the demonstrators here last month. —United Press.

HE WAS HITLER'S ATTORNEY

Berlin, Dec. 15. Franz Zaver Schwarz, 72, former National Treasurer of the Nazi Party, died in an internment camp at Regensburg in the United States occupation zone of Germany.

Schwarz held the power of attorney from Adolf Hitler in all financial matters of the National Socialist Party. —Associated Press.

SOCIALISTS TO MEET

London, Dec. 15. A British Labour Party delegation and representatives of Finnish, Dutch, Swiss and Italian Socialist parties are expected to attend the Polish Socialist Party conference due to open in Breslau tomorrow, the Warsaw Radio said. —Reuter.

Death Of The Man With The Pipe

Stourport, Dec. 14. Lord Baldwin died in his sleep last night at his home here. He was 88 years old.

Better known to the public as plain Mr. Stanley Baldwin, he was created Earl Baldwin of Bewdley in 1937 when he severed most of his links with public life.

He was a leading figure in the abdication crisis of 1936 when the newly crowned King Edward the Eighth left the throne to his brother, the present King.

The Prime Minister held urgent consultations with the heads of the Dominion Governments, had audiences with the King himself, and finally went to the House of Commons with King Edward's message of abdication.

Another event in his long and distinguished career as a public servant, was his leadership of his Government through the dark days of the 1926 general strike.

In his youth, Lord Baldwin was associated with his family's iron foundry. He was 41 before he entered politics as a Conservative Member of the Bewdley division which he represented in Parliament for 29 years, during 12 of which he was Prime Minister.

Lord Baldwin had been suffering from a slight cold for a few days, and was found dead by a servant who went to call him early this morning.

A family meeting was held tonight at Lord Baldwin's home at Astley Hall and it was understood that cremation would take place in Birmingham. The day and time will be decided by the new Earl. —Reuter.

BATAVIA BOMB EXPLOSION

Batavia, Dec. 15. Nine were injured and detained in a military hospital here today as the result of a mysterious explosion last night in the midst of the crowd leaving the Capitol Theatre, in one of the main streets of Batavia.

The explosion was thought to have been caused by a small bomb thrown from a balcony. The bomb landed in the crowd, and exploded, killing nine and wounding 18.

Eight were slightly injured but not admitted to hospital. —Reuter.

Just To Emphasise His Point

CAIRO, DEC. 14. SHOTS WERE FIRED INTO THE AIR BY LAMLOUN PASHA, A BEDOUISE LEADER, WHO BRAGGED HIS GUN TO EMPHASISE A FIERY SPEECH EXPRESSING HIS DETERMINATION TO FIGHT FOR PALESTINE. AT A MAMMOTH ANTI-PARTITION DEMONSTRATION HERE TODAY.

After attending mid-day prayers at the El Azhar Mosque, between 60,000 and 100,000 demonstrators marched to the Continental Hotel to hear addresses from the Arab, Premier Emir Faisal, the Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister and the Lebanese and Syrian Premiers, who were greeted enthusiastically when they appeared to address the crowd.

Mahmud Nokrashi Pasha, Haj Amin El Hussein (the Mufti of Jerusalem) and the Iraq and Transjordan Premiers were notable absentees.

Emir Faisal, who promised Saudi Arabian money to "save Palestine," was interrupted by shouts of "no petrol for American" from the crowd.

After two hours when the demonstrators were collapsing at the rate of one a minute, the crowd left the square to march past Abidin Palace. It then dispersed. —Reuter.

Chinese Air Officer In England

London, Dec. 15. A luncheon was given by Dr. Cheng Tien-hai, Chinese Ambassador, to mark the completion of the training of three Chinese officers at the R.A.F. Staff College at Gerrards Cross in Buckinghamshire.

The officers are Colonel Lin Wen-kwei, Colonel L. L. Chien, and Major Y. S. Chen.

Guests of honour at the party were Air Commodore A.W.B. MacDonald, Commandant of the College, and Mrs. MacDonald; Group Captain M. G. Philpott, second in command, and Mrs. Philpott; and Colonel Lai Ming-tong, Chinese Air Attache.

SALVATION ARMY HEAD DEAD

New York, Dec. 14. General Edward Higgins, former head of the Salvation Army, died today at his New Jersey home. He was 83.

His death was announced by the Salvation Army headquarters here. —Reuter.

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"ORMARA"	Shanghai	24th Dec.
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"ORMARA"	Shanghai	21st Dec.
"TREVISO"	Genoa, London, Antwerp Rotterdam (Amsterdam) via Straits & Colombo	24th Dec.
"STRATHNAVER"	U.K.	26th Dec.
"ORMARA"	Bombay via Straits & Colombo	3rd Jan.
"TREVISO"	Shanghai	16th Jan.
"TREVAYLOR"	Shanghai	15th Feb.
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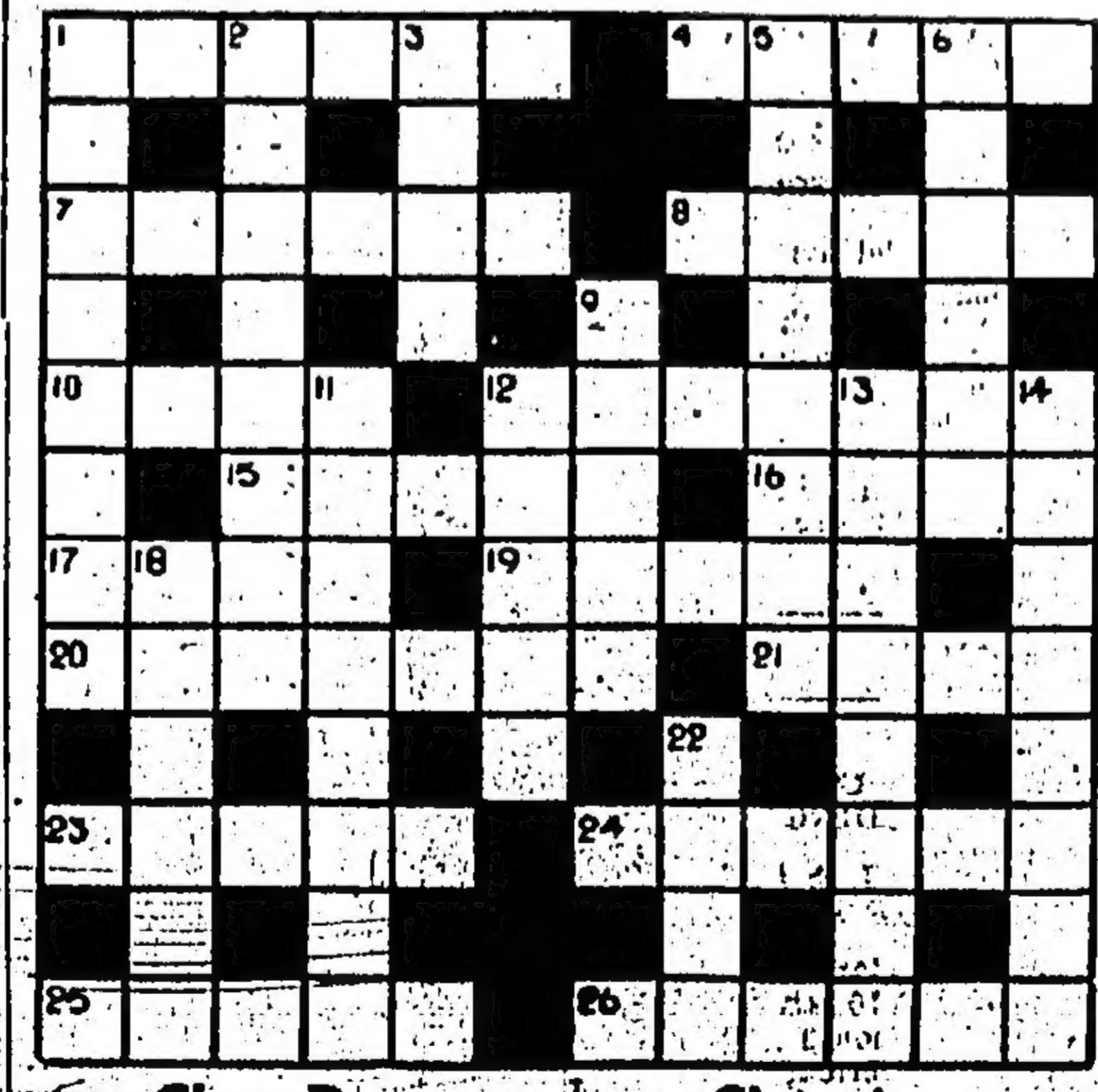
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 - Go-between
 - Chisel
 - Part of a doorway
 - Twists
 - Renovating
 - Uneducated
 - Wild flight
 - Vehement speech
 - Heap
 - Continues
 - Escort
 - Down—Stand
 - Adorn
 - Dilated
 - Retard
 - Moor
 - Trader
 - Cherry
 - Molar
 - Baron
 - Repress
 - Laciar
 - Connet
 - Orison
 - Edile
 - Apex
 - Debar
 - Dared
 - Apex
 - Debar
- Yesterday's Crossword**
- Across—1. Dramatic, 2. Caudle, 3. Lemonade, 4. Tormentor, 5. Half, 6. Debar, 7. Dared, 8. Apex, 9. Debar.

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"TJIBADAK"	Amoy 18th Dec.	Macassar and Java ports 21st December
"TJISADANE"	In Port	Batavia, Soerabaya and Macassar 17th December.

ORIENT-JAVA-AFRICA LINE SOUTH-ATLANTIC LINE		
	Due from	Loading for
"STRAAT MALAKKA"	In Port	Manila, Singapore, Mauritius, Lourenco Marques, Beira, Durban, East London, Port Elizabeth, Mombasa, Capetown, Buenos Aires, Monte- video, Santos, Rio de Janeiro, 24th Dec.

Transshipment cargo on through bill of lading accepted for
Dar-Es-Salaam, Mombasa & Zanzibar.

"STRAAT SOENDA"		
South America, South Africa 14th Jan. 1948	South Africa, South America 2nd Feb. 1948.	

DELI-STRAITS-CHINA LINE		
	Due from	Sailing for
"VAN HEUTSZ"	In Port Sailing for Swatow & Amoy 14th Dec.	Singapore, Penang & Belawan Deli 22nd Dec.

"HEINRICH JESSEN"		
Belawan, Deli Penang, Singapore 21st Dec. Sailing for Swatow & Amoy	Singapore, Penang 9th Jan. 1948.	

Agents HOLLAND-EAST ASIA LINE		
	Due from	Loading for
"BREDERO"	Japan & Shanghai on or about 21st Dec.	Manila/Singapore/ Colombo/Port Said/ Alexandria/ Haifa (direct)

"LEOPOLDSKERK"		
Due from Europe, first week of Jan. 1948. Sailing for Shanghai & Japan	Loading for Manila/Singapore/ Colombo/ Port Said/Haifa/ Genoa/Marseilles/ Antwerp/Rotterdam/ Amsterdam/Hamburg/ Copenhagen/ Gothenburg/ Oslo, beginning of February 1948.	

"MOLENKERK"		
Due from Europe end of January	Loading for Manila/Singapore/ Colombo/ Port Said/Haifa/ Genoa/Marseilles/ Antwerp/Rotterdam/ Amsterdam/Hamburg/ Copenhagen/ Gothenburg/ Middle of Feb.	

"ALPHERAT"		
In Port	Loading for Manila/Singapore/ Colombo/P. Said/Haifa/ Genoa/Marseilles/ Antwerp/Rotterdam/ Amsterdam/Hamburg/ Copenhagen/Gothenburg, end of Feb.	

Agents SILVER LINE LTD.		
	Due from	Sailing for
"SILVEROAK"	In Port	U.S. Atlantic Coast ports via Manila, Singapore and Suez, on or about 22nd Dec.

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EXPRESS CARGO LINER SERVICES TO AND FROM PACIFIC & ATLANTIC COASTS		
U.S.A. LOADING DATES		

Loads	Date	Vessel
Atlantic Coast via Los Angeles	Late Dec. Mid. Jan.	m.v. "DONA NATI" m.v. "TONGHAI"

From	Date	Vessel
Pacific Coast Atlantic Coast via Los Angeles	27th Dec. 20th Jan. Mid Jan.	m.v. "MANGALORE" m.v. "DONA AURORA" m.v. "ANDAMAN"

For	Date	Vessel
Atlantic Coast via Los Angeles	24th Jan. Mid Jan.	m.v. "DONA AURORA" m.v. "ANDAMAN"

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DISPUTE IN TRADE TALKS

Sharp Divisions Of Opinion

Havana, Dec. 15.
Four major controversies have split the Havana Trade Conference and, as it begins its fourth week, they are still unresolved. Delegates of 58 nations here to adopt a charter for an international trade organization are sharply divided over import quotas, trade preferences, threats to sovereignty, and voting strength within the ITO itself.

Everyone who will be quoted on the subject says all issues can be compromised satisfactorily—in the face of such conflicting evidence as:
The United States finds unacceptable two-thirds, or about 600, of the approximately 800 amendments proposed to the ITO charter draft.

Argentina says a large part of what others call "the essential code" of the charter is unacceptable to her.
The fight over quotas of uninitiated restrictions on trade is being led by the Latin Americans.

What it means in simplest terms:
If a nation wants to develop its own motor or livestock industries it can eliminate foreign competition by restricting to a minimum the imports of, say, American motor chassis or Argentine beef.

The charter draft says this use of import quotas must first be approved by the ITO in each instance.
A sizeable number of "underdeveloped nations" demand the right to act first in protection or establishment of their infant or unborn industries and then ask approval of the act accomplished.

The United States and Britain contend this would kill the very heart of the charter.
Latin America is expected to give ground and the United States and Britain to meet it halfway.

Trading preferences, according to the charter, should be eliminated eventually.
But a number of arons with the same trading, production and consumption interests want the right to start preferential trading systems in the future.

—Association Press.
Fukienese Hit By New Order
Shanghai, Dec. 15.
The emigration of Fukienese people to the South Seas has been severely hit by the introduction of new regulations governing the entry of Chinese into Malaysia by the British authorities there, according to Chinese reports today.

Under the measure, announced last September by the Malaysian Government, only relatives of Chinese domiciled there or employees of Chinese companies in Malaysia may enter the country.
The greater majority of Overseas Chinese in the South Seas area including Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia, originated from Southern China, mainly the provinces of Kwangtung and Fukien.—Reuter.

TSINGTAO'S TRADE
Tsingtao, Dec. 15.
Tsingtao's total imports during November amounted to 600,181 tons, consisting of coal, flour, wooden material and fish. Coal made up 30 percent of the total imports.
The port's total exports during the same period reached 18,544 tons, comprising salt, cotton yarn and Chinese wine, according to figures of the port authorities.—Central News.

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SOAKING THE RICH

Shanghai, Dec. 15.
A plan to make China's well-to-do contribute part of their wealth for national reconstruction has been worked out and only awaits final approval by the State Council, according to Chinese press reports from Nanking, quoting a spokesman of the Executive Yuan.
The plan was drafted by the Ministry of Finance and had been approved by the National Economic Council.—Reuter.

Answer To The Marshall Aid Plan
Moscow, Dec. 15.
Observers in Moscow speculated that the new five-year trade pact between Russia and Czechoslovakia might be the forerunner of similar treaties throughout Europe, which may utilize the so-called "Marshall Plan" countries.

These observers said that Friday's British announcement of British-Soviet discussions to begin next May on "long-term" trade arrangements and the Czech pact are signs of a revolutionary application of Soviet state economic planning to the field of foreign trade. They interpreted these steps as the Russian answer to the Marshall Plan.

An official statement said the total amount of supplies for each country under the Czech-Soviet pact would amount to the equivalent of US\$100,000,000 during the period 1949 to 1952.—Associated Press.

H.K. Stock Exchange
There was little to show for the day's trading.
H.K. Govt. Loans 4% Loan 100: 81 1/2, 101.
Banks: H.K. & S. Bank 100: 201 1/2, 202 1/2; (Lon. Rec.) 211 1/2; Chartered Bank 211 1/2; Mercantile Bk. of India 211 1/2; Bank of East Asia 115 1/2, 116 1/2; Insurance: Canton Ins. 270: Union Ins. 700: 700; 705: China Underwriters 70: H.K. Fire Ins. 228 1/2.
Shipping: Douglas 250: H.K. & M. Steamships 14 1/2; Indo China 21: (Freight) 100: (Def.) 100: Shell (Barrel) 40 1/2; (New) 45 1/2; U. Waterboats (Old) 40 1/2; (New) 45 1/2.
Docks, Wharves, Godowns, Etc.: H.K. & S. Wharves (Old) 21 1/2; (New) 22 1/2; H.K. Lands (Old) 80; (New) 79; S'hai Lands 80, 81; Rights 49 1/2, 49 1/2; H.K. Docks 83 1/2, 83 1/2; S'hai Dockyards 10 1/2, 10 1/2; H.K. Realities 18; Chinese Estates 18 1/2.
Public Utilities: H.K. Tramways 22 1/2; Peak Tram (Old) 18 1/2; (New) 9 1/2; Star Ferry (Old) 18 1/2; (New) 17 1/2; C. Light (Old) 2 1/2; S. D. 2 1/2; (New) 2 1/2; S. D. 2 1/2; H.K. Electric (Old) 80 1/2, 81 1/2, 81 1/2; (New) 80 1/2; Macao Electric 21; Sandakan Light 10 1/2; Telephone (Old) 40 1/2, 41, 40 1/2; (New) 41 1/2.
Industrial: Cold. Mfg. (Ord.) 1 1/2; (Pref.) 1 1/2; Canton Ice 1 1/2; Cement (Old) 31; (New) 31; H.K. Ropes 30 1/2; Stone Acc. (Old) 2 1/2; (New) 2 1/2; Watsons 7 1/2, 7 1/2; Lane, Crawford & Co. 1 1/2; Sincere 8 1/2; China Emporium 1 1/2; Sun Co. Ltd. 8 1/2; Kwong Sang Hong 10 1/2; Wing On (H.K.) 10 1/2; Wm. Powell 1 1/2; H.K. 1 1/2.
Miscellaneous: China Enterprises 1 1/2; H.K. Constructions (Old) 8 1/2; (New) 8 1/2; Vibro Piling 8 1/2; Maruman Investments 12 1/2; Maruman (H.K.) 12 1/2.
Cottons: Swon 12 1/2, 12 1/2.

Money Market
The bottom fell out of gold yesterday as it dropped 10 1/2 points, shortly after opening at \$302 a tael. It closed at \$292.50, but the undertone was weak.
A ample supply of gold in the colony plus new arrivals despite the ban, was given as the reason for the drop in the market.
Platinum continued to flirt yesterday and touched \$11.95 a 100 when the market was at its peak. Opening quotation was \$11.35. At the close the rate was \$11.75.
Chinese National Currency opened at 33 cents for futures and 30 cents for spot (for CN\$10,000) and closed at 32 1/2 cents and 43 cents respectively.
U.S. dollars weakened to \$5.00. Sterling was also easier at \$19.07 1/2. Australian pounds were unchanged at \$12.61.
Tientsin were quoted at \$26.90 a 100 and NEI Guilders at \$26.00 a 100 on the local exchange.
In Shanghai yesterday (says Reuter) open market rates were unchanged at CN\$75,000 (buyers) and CN\$74,000 (sellers) for the U.S. dollar, and CN\$33,000 (buyers) and CN\$32,000 (sellers) for Sterling.

Claims Against Japan

WASHINGTON, DEC. 15.
FAR EASTERN COMMISSION OFFICIALS, HOLDING FAST TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS' CLAIMS FOR REPARATIONS FROM JAPAN, WERE STILL UNABLE TO REPORT PROGRESS LAST NIGHT.
Reparations have been the subject of continuous discussion since the establishment of the Commission about 18 months ago, and the officials said that further attempts would be made to reconcile the various claims, but the impression in informed quarters was that a reparations distribution formula, as well as the actual amount and nature of the reparations which it is considered Japan can be asked to pay without endangering its basic economy, will have to be hammered out at a Pacific peace conference.

Earlier hopes that a treaty would be ready for signature next March are considered to have faded into the realm of almost certain impossibility.—Reuter.

Notice To Consignees
MAERSK LINE
THE M.V. "JOHANNES MAERSK" having arrived from New York and Port of call, Consignees of Cargo are hereby notified that their goods are being landed and placed at their risk into the Hong Kong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Company's godowns at Kowloon, where delivery may be obtained as soon as the goods are landed.

Optional cargo will not be landed here, unless notice has been given 48 hours prior to vessel's arrival, but carried on from port to port to the final port of call to which the option extends.

No claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all goods remaining undelivered after the 23rd December 1947 will be subject to rent.

All broken chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on 22nd December 1947 at 10 a.m. by our Surveyors Messrs. Goddard & Douglas.

To comply with the General Bonded Warehouse Regulations consignees must have a Revenue Officer in attendance when damaged dutiable goods are examined.

All claims must reach us before the 16th January 1948, or they will not be recognized.

No Insurance will be effected. Bills of Lading will be countersigned by
JEBSEN & CO., Agents
Hong Kong, 16th December 1947.

Notice To Consignees
CONSIGNEES PER
BARBER-WILHELMSEN LINE
M.V. "TIGRE"
are hereby notified that their cargo is being discharged into the Hong Kong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co.'s godown where it will be at Consignees' risk and subject to the Wharf's terms and conditions of storage, and where delivery may be obtained.

Damaged packages are to be left in the Godowns for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors Messrs. Goddard & Douglas at 10 a.m. on 16th December.

To comply with the General Bonded Warehouse Regulations consignees must have a Revenue Officer in attendance when damaged dutiable goods are examined.

No claim will be admitted after the goods have left the steamer's godowns, and all goods remaining undelivered after the 17th December, 1947 will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the underwriter on or before the 27th December, 1947, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.
DODWELL & CO. (UK) Agents
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SS "Marine Swallow" (via Shanghai & Yokohama)	Jan. 12	
SS "General Gordon" (via Manila & Honolulu)	Jan. 21	

Note: Third Class Passage Fare from Hongkong to Pacific Coast is US\$200.00 plus US\$3.00 for persons who are not U.S. Citizens.

TO SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES		
SS "President Grant" (via Nagoya, Yokohama & Honolulu)	Dec. 21	
SS "President Taft" (S. F. Direct)	Dec. 30	
SS "Clovis Victory" (via Manila)	Jan. 4	
SS "President Pierce" (S. F. Direct)	Jan. 14	

TO BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE & MADRAS		
SS "Marine Swallow"	Dec. 17	
TO NEW YORK AND HAVANA VIA MANILA, SINGAPORE, COLOMBO, COCHIN, BOMBAY, SUEZ AND MEDITERRANEAN PORTS		
SS "Louis McHenry Howe" (calls Karachi)	Dec. 17	
SS "Scott E. Land"	Dec. 27	
SS "Marine Snapper" (calls Karachi)	Dec. 27	
SS "President Monroe"	Jan. 5	

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s.s. "CHINA BEAR"	" 21	" 22	Direct
s.s. "FLEET WOOD"	" 31	" 31	

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Arrivals from New York, Boston, Other Atlantic Ports via Panama

s.s. "PIONEER SEA"	Due Dec. 20
s.s. "SPITFIRE"	Jan. 4
Sailings to Manila	
s.s. "PIONEER SEA"	Sails Dec. 21
s.s. "SPITFIRE"	Jan. 4
Sailings to New York, Boston, Other Atlantic Ports via Panama Canal	
s.s. "LOOKOUT"	Sails Dec. 28

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m.s. "ROSEVILLE"	DUE 18th DEC.
SAILING FOR SINGAPORE 16th DEC.	
m.s. "CASTLEVILLE"	DUE 31st DEC.

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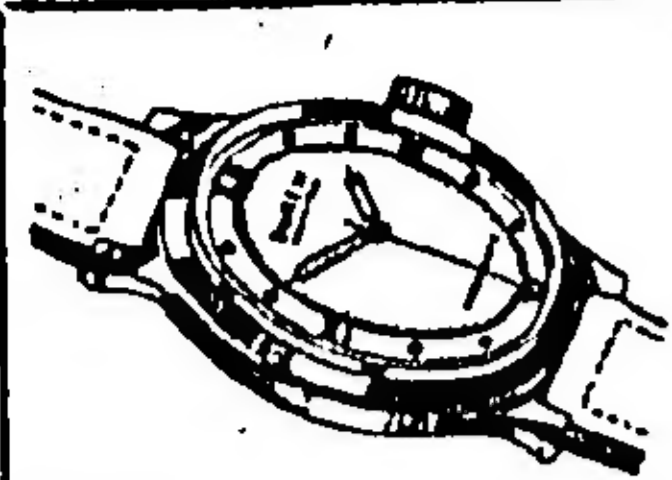
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SPORTLIGHT ON GOLF FINANCIERS Captain's Cup Play Prospects

Rain Washes Out 2nd Test
Sydney, Dec. 15. Play was impossible today—the third day of the second Australia-India Test Match. Heavy overnight rain turned the pitch into a quagmire.—United Press.

Football Shield Fixtures

The following are the first round matches of the Football Shield Competitions:—

SATURDAY, DEC. 20	
Club v. Navy (Club, 4 p.m.) Ref. Willis, Linesmen: N. Delgado and Leung Yung-tung.	Police v. R.A.F. (Police, 4 p.m.) Ref. H. Bibby, Linesmen: Col. Manson and P.M. Naylor.
Eastern v. Bulls (Club, 4 p.m.) Ref. J.L. Bullock, Linesmen: Mr. Young-fai and Li Ping-ping.	25th R.A. v. Kwong Wah (Kwong Wah, 4 p.m.) Ref. A. Brogan, Linesmen: B. Giesano and D. Leonard.
Kiu Chee v. Innicks (Navy, 4 p.m.) Ref. J.F. Silva, Linesmen: C. Redman and F.A. Barretto.	
SUNDAY, DEC. 21	
Chinese A.A. v. K.M. (Club, 2.15 p.m.) Ref. J.C. Tunstall, Linesmen: P.M. Xavier and A. Ribeiro.	Sing Tao v. St. Joseph's (Club, 4 p.m.) Ref. J. Havelaar, Linesmen: P. George and L. Harris.
Chinese A.A. v. Signals (Police, 2.15 p.m.) Ref. J.C. Tunstall, Linesmen: P.M. Xavier and A. Ribeiro.	South China B. v. Eastern (Club, 2.15 p.m.) Ref. A. Lee, Linesmen: P. George and L. Harris.
Tai Koon v. Sing Tao (Club, 2.15 p.m.) Ref. A. Lee, Linesmen: P. George and L. Harris.	

Philip Kissed His Wife And Went Off To Work

London, Dec. 15. Like millions of other husbands Prince Philip kissed his wife goodbye and went off to work today. Prince Philip reported for duty in naval uniform. In the operations room of the Admiralty less than a half mile from the Palace only 24 hours after his return from his honeymoon in Scotland. He was driven to work by a chauffeur who sped through the archway of Admiralty Building at nearly 30 m.p.h. A small crowd of women and photographers, waiting outside the Mall entrance of the building, missed Philip altogether.—United Press.

Kid Pedruco And Pulling To Clash

One of the best boxing programmes ever staged in the Colony has been arranged for Saturday, Dec. 20, at the V.R.C., when the pick of Service and Civilian boxers will be on display.

Star attraction of the evening will be a four-round contest between Leading Writer R. ("Bols") Pulling, of H.M.S. Tamar, and Kid Pedruco, the "Pride of Macao." Pulling was featherweight champion of the R.N.V.R. in Britain from 1937 to 1938, lightweight Mediterranean champion 1942 to 1943 and Open Services welterweight champion of Hong Kong, 1947. Joe Perks, Open Services middleweight champion of Hong Kong, is opposed to Sgt. Corr, of the Inniskillings. These two boxers have met once before in an exhibition bout at the Fleet Club.

Return Bout

Marine Kettlewell, H.M.S. London, meets Sgt. Jones, of the Devons, in a return bout over four rounds. Kettlewell has not lost a fight in Hong Kong and Jones is all out to reverse the recent decision against him.

It is hoped to find an opponent for Sgt. Kearns, of the Inniskillings, from H.M.S. London. Kearns piled up an impressive series of victories while with the Army in India. Other bouts, all of three 2-minute rounds are:—
Lanky Santos vs. Sgt. Barr (Inniskillings).
Welterweight Antonio Silva vs. Fus. Adair (Inniskillings).
Lightweight Alfredo Malig vs. P. S. Scullings (H.M.S. London).
A. B. McLaughlin (H.M.S. London) vs. Pte. Finch (Devons).
Featherweight Stoker Donnelly (H.M.S. London) vs. L/C Coyle (Inniskillings).

HAND-TO-HAND BATTLE IN KASHMIR HILLS

New Delhi, Dec. 14. Hand-to-hand fighting and night attacks on hill-top positions, reminiscent of the part Indian troops played in the mountain warfare in Italy, have marked a week-end of fighting in Kashmir.

Over 320 raiders were killed by Indian army troops in the Uri area of north-west Kashmir alone in the last three days. Tonight's Indian Defence Ministry communique, which gave these figures, added that Indian forces also suffered casualties. Indian troops cleared a hill position of raiders south of Poonch, in south-western Kashmir, and two parties of raiders were shelled in the Jhangar-Kachera area. Indian army and Kashmir State force patrols killed 11 raiders in two encounters in Jammu Province. Royal Indian Air Force planes carried out reconnaissance flights over the Chakothi-Domel Road (in the north-west) and the Akhaur-Bimbar-Poonch area. (In the south-west, the communique added.)

19 STOWAWAYS BROUGHT BACK

Nineteen stowaways, all male Chinese, were brought to Hong Kong yesterday by the "Tiladine" from Manila. They were found hiding in the "Bols Baldo" when the Dutch vessel anchored at Manila. After spending 19 days at the Philippine capital, they were sent back by the "Tiladine." Italy, dominating play, especially during the match, scored a 1-1 victory over Czechoslovakia in a soccer international played before a crowd of 19,000 here today.—Reuter.

WILDCATS-CANUCKETTES SET THE ODDS Keen Game Starred "Triple Play"

(By "Grandstand")
No matter how loyal supporters are, fielding gems and even grand-slam homers are easily forgotten, but once in a while a play is made which is remembered for years.

A triple play is one of those rare occurrences, and although there is the possibility of one being executed anytime there are two on bases with none away, statisticians have figured that the chance of one being made is even less than dealing out a Royal Straight Flush in a five-handed poker game. However, one such play happened last week during the Wildcats—Canuckettes clash and the players involved were Marie Figueiredo, Terry Silva and Peggy Barros, whilst the victims were Canuckettes Jenn Lee, Alice Mar and Ulie Khoo.

The Set-Up

The set-up was in the first frame of this memorable tussle when Jenn Lee got a life on a grounder which Wildcat shortstop bumbled. Jenn pilfered second base and Alice Mar drew a walk. Ulie Khoo batting No. 3 for the Maple Leafers looked over a couple of Dolly Brown's tosses and found one to her liking which she smacked out to centre field to find centre-gardener Marie Figueiredo sitting right under it. Both Jean Lee and Alice Mar, undaunted by Marie's fielding ability and started tearing around the sacks with head crack of the bat. Paying heed to frantic screams of "Throw it to second," Marie did just that, and key-stoner Terry Silva tagged the cushion for the second out, and relayed the apple to first-sacker Peggy Barros to complete the triple killing. The drama was completed in under a minute and for thrill and action in any sport, that's pretty hard to beat.

Playing inspired ball after this triple-play, the Wildcats notched up a fistful of runs in their turn at the plate on four Canadian errors and two hits. Undaunted by the devastating set-back the Maple Leafers came right back with six runs to take the lead in the next inning on five safeties, including the first of Ulie Khoo's round-trippers with two aboard, but their hopes were short-lived as the bat-happy Wildcats turned the tables with three runs on a walk and two successive bingles.

Grounded Out

Peggy Barros filed out followed by Thelma Watson who grounded out to second. Wildcat Salvacion Diesta was ear-marked for victim No. 3, when she waved futilely at the third strike, but Maple Leafers receiver Mary Ng in an utterly strange assignment, too, missed the ball and Salvacion was given a life. Right there and then, the ball game was lost as the Untamed Felines went on to collect a further eight runs in a batting spree—all after the third out was given second chance. After that Coach Bill Woo had to take Mary Ng away from behind the plate and shifted key-stoner Ulie Khoo for catcher's duties, and managed to stop the riot. The Canuckettes chalked up two more runs in the next which added to Ulie Khoo's second four-master with ducks in the pond totalled 11 markers to the Wildcats 19 when the end of the seventh rolled around.

Dolly Brown hurled for the Wildcats was not in top form and only whiffed five while Alice Mar pitching her heart out for the Maple Leafers claimed only one victim via the strike-out route. Dolly walked three while Alice passed six to first. Babida also homered for the Untamed Felines while first-sacker Peggy Barros whammed out one good for three bases but was tagged at the plate when she attempted to scorch it into four bases.

Keen Fans

The usual large crowd of followers turned out to watch the tussle and although they can hardly be blamed for trying to get as close as possible to the battling belles, it felt they should have more consideration for the players and officials of the game by keeping

Curiosity Costs Baby Its Life

Eagerness to crawl and curiosity to see what was on the side of the junk on which she was born cost 13-month-old Chan Kam-ho her life yesterday. The infant fell overboard and was drowned in the harbour off Mongkok, Kowloon. Her 30-year-old mother was ashore at the time, leaving an older daughter behind in charge of the junk, No. 4277.

A Bullet In The Ballet

London, Dec. 15. Honey blonde Vera Valentine's sequin-studded brassiere glittered brilliantly as she slithered into the splits finale of her "Ballet Parisienne." Then she heard a faint swish and grabbed her shoulder.

Blood streamed on to her brassiere and made a thin line down to a Hawaiian-style sash which masked her hips. The 21-year-old dancer said today she felt as if she had been kicked by a mule. But she had been shot in the shoulder by an air rifle pellet fired—the police later deduced from a balcony of the suburban London theatre at which she appeared on Saturday night. Miss Valentine remained on the stage until the curtains closed and, donning more appropriate clothing, was rushed to hospital where the slug was dug out. Doctors said the missile penetrated about one inch entering just above the unclothed right collar bone. The balcony was searched but the police could find no clue to the assailant.—United Press.

Paris, Dec. 14. Oxford—University rugby team defeated Tonnais 20-0 in Paris this afternoon.—Associated Press.



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MR. MARSHALL REPLIES TO ACCUSATIONS

London, Dec. 14. The United States delegation to the Big Four Foreign Ministers Conference, answering questions raised by M. Vyacheslav Molotov at Friday's meeting, declared tonight that the United States had long ago proposed a moratorium on the abolition of German property by other nations, adding that the United States had lived up to its principles.

"There is not one single case of German business property that has been acquired by United States interests during the entire occupation," the statement said. The statement made public tonight was issued to the Conference Secretariat on Saturday in reply to a Soviet enquiry concerning the acquisition of German business properties by the United States and alleged American profits on the export of German coal and timber.

Proposals

The statement reads: "The United States long ago proposed a moratorium on the acquisition of foreign ownership or control of property in Germany except to replace property destroyed or transferred since Sept. 1, 1939, with property similar in character and value." "It also proposed," the statement continued, "a report in the Control Council on:—
"1.—The policies followed by each of the occupying powers in this respect.
"2.—A factual statement of changes in foreign ownership or the control of property in each of the zones since the occupation."
"This proposal has not been accepted."
The statement added: "All goods shipped out of the United States and United Kingdom Zones and all services provided for foreigners out of German resources have been sold at world market prices."
"Not one penny of these pro-

DARKROOM OLYMPICS

London, Dec. 15. A mobile darkroom will be used for photographs of the final of the Olympic Games' cycle races in London next year, held at Herne Hill for track events and Windsor Great Park, where the road race will be held. "At Windsor it is hoped to install both 'dark' and 'light' photo apparatus.—Reuter.

Madrid, Dec. 14. Real, a Madrid Spanish premier soccer league side, beat a Lisbon team, Belenenses, by three goals to one here today.—Reuter.